NEW YORK POST

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Getty Images

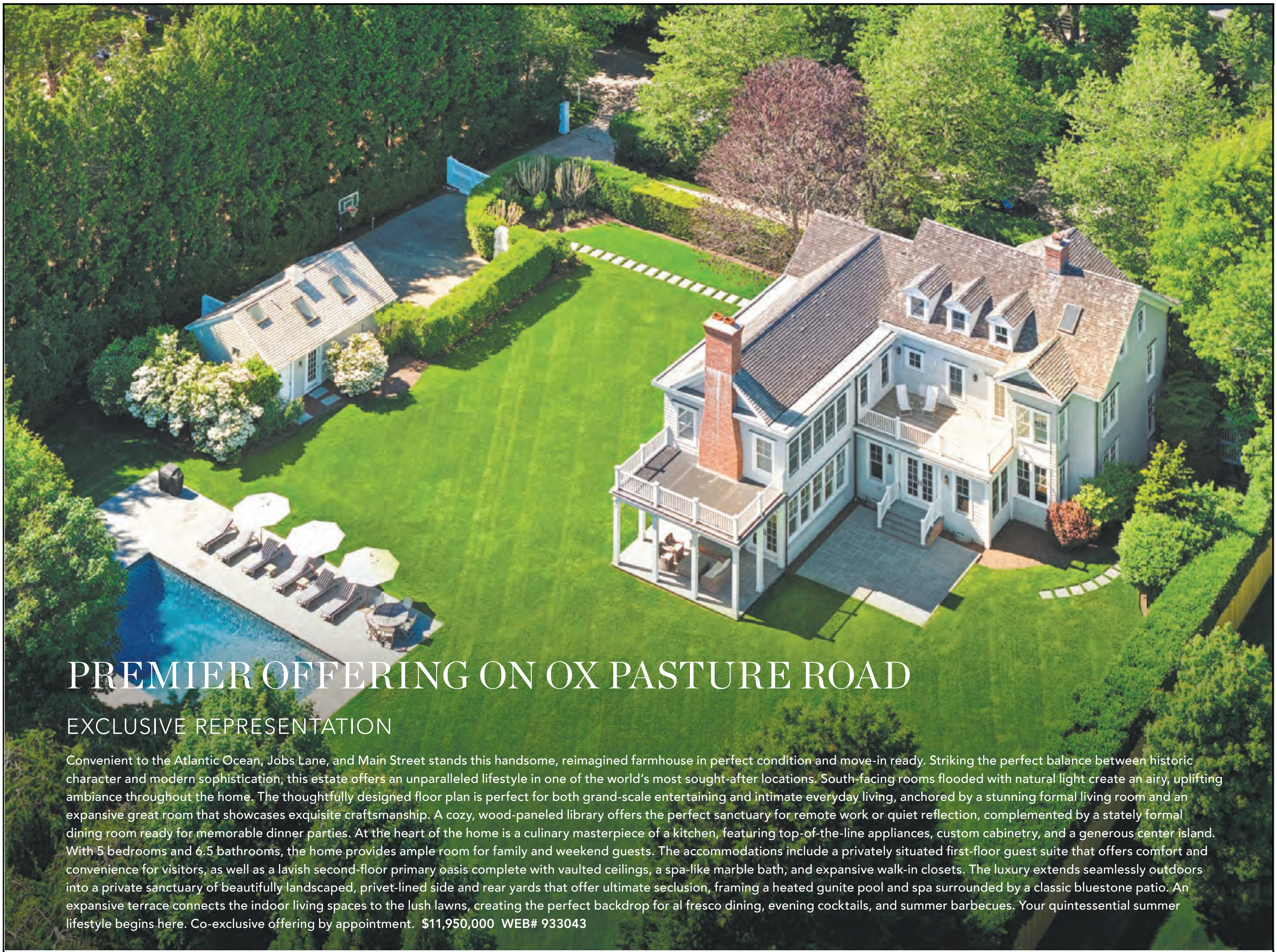
Supreme Court allows trans bans in girls' sports

NO BOYS ALLOWED

The Supreme Court ruled that the states could legally ban biological men from women's sports, a victory for campaigners upset by scenes like this — where trans swimmer Lia Thomas beat a group of college women.

PAGES 4-7

PLUS: Justices uphold birthright citizenship



PREMIER OFFERING ON OX PASTURE ROAD

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION

Convenient to the Atlantic Ocean, Jobs Lane, and Main Street stands this handsome, reimagined farmhouse in perfect condition and move-in ready. Striking the perfect balance between historic character and modern sophistication, this estate offers an unparalleled lifestyle in one of the world’s most sought-after locations. South-facing rooms flooded with natural light create an airy, uplifting ambiance throughout the home. The thoughtfully designed floor plan is perfect for both grand-scale entertaining and intimate everyday living, anchored by a stunning formal living room and an expansive great room that showcases exquisite craftsmanship. A cozy, wood-paneled library offers the perfect sanctuary for remote work or quiet reflection, complemented by a stately formal dining room ready for memorable dinner parties. At the heart of the home is a culinary masterpiece of a kitchen, featuring top-of-the-line appliances, custom cabinetry, and a generous center island. With 5 bedrooms and 6.5 bathrooms, the home provides ample room for family and weekend guests. The accommodations include a privately situated first-floor guest suite that offers comfort and convenience for visitors, as well as a lavish second-floor primary oasis complete with vaulted ceilings, a spa-like marble bath, and expansive walk-in closets. The luxury extends seamlessly outdoors into a private sanctuary of beautifully landscaped, privet-lined side and rear yards that offer ultimate seclusion, framing a heated gunite pool and spa surrounded by a classic bluestone patio. An expansive terrace connects the indoor living spaces to the lush lawns, creating the perfect backdrop for al fresco dining, evening cocktails, and summer barbecues. Your quintessential summer lifestyle begins here. Co-exclusive offering by appointment. **$11,950,000 WEB# 933043**

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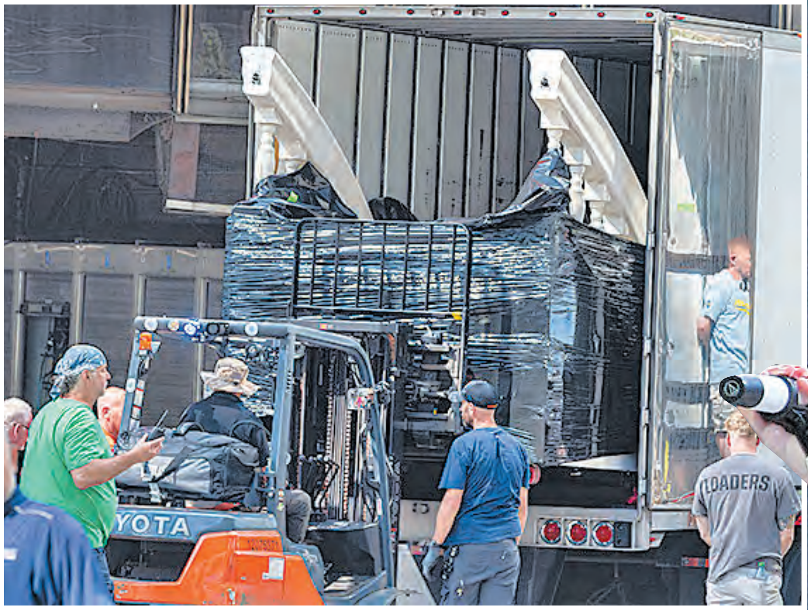
NYC 'ROYAL' WEDDING



'PEEK' INTEREST: While workers loaded decor into Madison Square Garden for Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding, a black plastic sheet fell, unveiling two white bannisters for a massive castle setup. A red carpet (below) was also rolled out before being removed minutes later.

Giant castle build for Swift-Kelce MSG nups

By TAMANTHA RYAN
and LARRY CELONA

Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift fairytale wedding will include a massive castle built for their Friday nuptials inside Madison Square Garden, Page Six can confirm.

While loading decor into the venue, a black plastic sheet fell down and revealed two white bannisters, which could be used for the castle setup.

The castle is reportedly being built inside a garden, per TMZ, which was first to report the news.

The outlet also reported workers have been draping MSG with fabric hanging from the ceiling. The arena floor has also been wrapped.

As Page Six previously reported, various deliveries have been made to the venue, with some boxes being labeled "Garden Party."

The wedding theme could be a nod to their August 2025 engagement, where the Kansas City Chiefs star proposed to the singer in the middle of a garden filled with white and pink-toned flowers.

On brand for Taylor

The castle could also have special meaning to Swift, as she has used an enchanted fortress during her "Speak Now" and "Fearless" tours.

On Tuesday afternoon, Page Six obtained exclusive video of a red carpet being rolled out on the stairs of the VIP entrance of The Garden. Minutes later, the carpet was removed.

An employee told us the carpet was for a "wedding" and said it was removed because it had been installed prematurely.

Kelce and Swift, both 36, are set to tie the knot in a star-studded ceremony.

Karlie Kloss, Zoë Kravitz, Ed Sheeran, the Haim sisters, Suki Waterhouse, Gigi Hadid and Selena Gomez are among the stars who have snagged invites to the upcoming nuptials.

Page Six exclusively reported that Stevie Nicks and Tim McGraw will perform and that Swift will have multiple outfit changes during the wedding.

The couple filed a permit asking for street closures around The Garden and for a public tent to be set up outside the venue.

Kelce and the pop star have been dating since 2023.

tryan@nypost.com

Getty Images; Lone Pine Press for NY Post; Matthew McDermott for NY Post

Oh, babies! 17 nurses preggers at Ohio hospital

An Ohio hospital's labor and delivery unit is about to see a lot of call-outs.

Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton has set a new record as 17 nurses in its childbirth department are expecting. The nurses made headlines as their unit's previous pregnancy record was 11 at one time back in 2019.

"I kept finding out more and more and more were pregnant with me," nurse Rileigh Batten, who is about 31 weeks pregnant, told Fox 8.

"I've never seen this many together at one time," said Amberly Saner, the nurse manager.

Each of the ladies are expecting between June and December. For a few, it's their first bundle of joy.

Batten said that Maddie, a colleague of five years who is also pregnant, would be there when her child arrives.

"Maddie and I are actually best friends. So I'm planning on having Maddie deliver my baby," Rileigh told ABC.

While the number of nurses set to go on maternity leave seems high, the Saner said the impact won't be too difficult to manage. The hospital has nearly 200 nurses and support nurses.

Aurielle Weiss

SCORE ONE FOR

KIRSTEN FLEMING

Logic wins, but game isn't over

THE Supreme Court handed down a huge win for biological truth and common sense.

In a 6-3 opinion Tuesday, the court upheld state bans on biological males playing in female sports, ruling against challenges in West Virginia and in Idaho.

And for many athletes turned activists, including former college swimmers Riley Gaines and Paula Scanlan and retired pro soccer player Elizabeth Eddy, it feels like a sweet victory.

"I'm so thankful," Eddy told me.

They all used the same word: "vindicated." But, they acknowledge, there's still more to be done. The game is still being played.

"This ruling just means that having a sports category solely for women isn't unconstitutional. It doesn't mean that states have to make the women's category exclusive to real women. It just means it's not illegal if they do so," Gaines said.

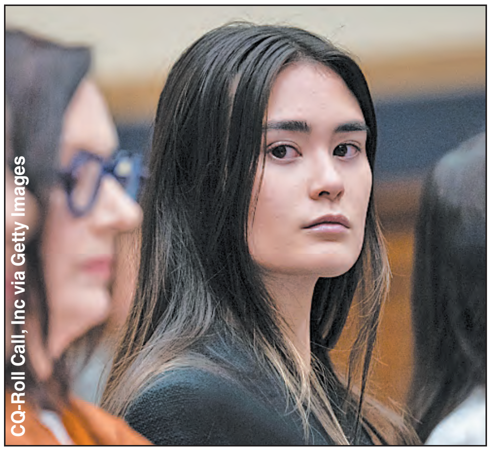
There are currently 27 states that have banned biological males from women's sports.

Tuesday's decision is another bulwark against the regressive argument that men can simply choose to be female, take some hormones and be granted a key to women's spaces and competition.

It's also a rebuke of the far left progressives' notion that this presents no safety issue or physical disadvantage for girls.

But let's remember how far we've come since this illiberal and oppressive fog settled down on our society.

"Go back to 2020 . . . when institutions, corporations, universities and governing bodies, and even courts began to pretend that reality was somehow up for debate," said Gaines, the former University of Kentucky swimmer.



CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images

'VINDICATED': Paula Scanlan, an ex-teammate of trans swimmer Lia Thomas, testified to Congress in 2023.

She recounted how, at her 2022 confirmation hearing, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of Tuesday's dissenters, "couldn't answer the question of what is a woman because she's 'not a biologist.' "

Media spin

Indeed, this has been a hard fought battle in which advocates risked everything to stand up and say what we've known since the dawn of time: Men and women are biologically different, and men have a physical advantage.

Sex matters.

The issue came to a head in 2021 when UPenn men's swimmer Will Thomas reintroduced himself as Lia Thomas and joined the women's team.

His new teammates were essentially told: You will like it or else.

"We were told we were bigots," said Scanlan, who is now a senior fellow at the American Principles Project. She is certainly celebrating the win, but also wonders, "Why did it take so long to take for the adults in the room to acknowledge what we knew back then as teenagers?"

The jubilation is somewhat tempered by media framing. NBC published an article after the decision, saying it delivers "another major blow to LGBTQ rights." A CBS tweet called it the "latest setback for transgender rights."

And yet, this was an 80/20 issue that forced many liberals to move center right and even vote for Trump.

But I take heart in Eddy's perspective. After writing an op-ed last fall about the need to maintain the integrity of single sex sports, she was publicly blasted by some teammates. However, "a lot of my peers privately offered support," she told me. Some people simply aren't ready to say the truth out loud. Hopefully this empowers the ones still whispering.

Getty Images

By RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that states can bar transgender female competitors from playing girls' sports in a landmark decision with major implications for more than half the country, where such policies are in place.

In a 6-3 opinion, the high court determined that neither Idaho nor West Virginia had violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment with their bans, as well as that Title IX allowed states to separate sports teams on the basis of biological sex.

But the majority opinion by conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh also underscored the importance of treating transgender athletes with respect.

"Most of the biological female and transgender student-athletes who are involved in transgender sports disputes around the country are teenagers or in their early twenties," Kavanaugh wrote.

"Those student athletes want to play sports. Their desire to compete warrants respect. No student-athlete on either side of the issue, whether a biological female or transgender, deserves to be ostracized or vilified."

Some 27 states have implemented laws similar to those in Idaho and West Virginia barring biological males from competing in women's sports for public schools and colleges. The Supreme Court opinion does not automatically reverse policies in states such as California and Connecticut that permit transgender athletes to compete in sports. Rather, the court's decision allows individual states to make decisions on their athletes, setting up a patchwork system of rules much like access to abortion.

State-ment

Kavanaugh, who spent years coaching his daughters' basketball teams in suburban Maryland, stressed that the court is deferring policy questions to the states and the democratic process.

"Sports are highly competitive and generally zero sum," he wrote for the majority. "Women and girls who play sports care deeply about all of those things. They obsess about them. They spend extraordinary time and effort to train in the heat and in the cold."

Two transgender athletes waged similar challenges to the state bans, arguing that the statutes flouted their rights and the law barring programs that engage in sex-based discrimination from receiving federal funds.

The three liberal justices would

THE GIRLS

High court keeps ban on trans in women's sports

BENCHED: The Supreme Court upheld a state ban Tuesday against trans athletes — like California high schooler AB Hernandez (far left) and former college swimmer Lia Thomas (left) — from competing in women's sports.

USA TODAY SPORTS

have allowed the states to proceed with their bans under a much narrower legal rationale that would have left the laws more susceptible to future challenges.

"West Virginia may well have satisfied its burden and seen its ban upheld. The point, rather, is that this Court's equal protection precedents require a very different approach . . . than the one the majority follows today," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent.

The liberals contended the high court should have just stuck with West Virginia plaintiff Becky Pepper-Jackson's concession that "sex" under the Title IX statute means "biological sex" assigned at birth, and not decided the constitutional question.

"I agree that B. P. J's Title IX claim fails, although on a narrower basis than that on which the majority relies. As for B. P. J.'s equal protection claim, however, the majority, at this stage of the litigation, gets the answer wrong," Sotomayor added.

'Ridiculous situation'

In Idaho, aspiring Boise State University track and cross-country athlete Lindsay Hecox challenged the state's Fairness in Women's Sports Act citing the 14th Amendment, ratified after the Civil War and meant to extend equal rights to former slaves.

President Trump used Title IX as the basis for his executive order last year targeting states that allow transgender women to compete in women's sports.

Notably, in his concurrence, Republican-appointed Justice Clarence Thomas went further than the majority and declared, "Men and boys with gender dysphoria are not women or girls, even if they believe that they are.

"Sex is an immutable 'biological' characteristic . . . it is binary; and 'man' and 'woman,' 'boy' and 'girl,' are the terms that correspond to adults and children of each sex," he added.

The majority opinion steered clear of making sweeping pronouncements on transgenderism.

The decision in the cases Little v. Hecox and West Virginia v. B. P. J. marks the first time the Supreme Court has dealt with the fraught culture war issue of transgender competition in girls' sports.

Last year, the Supreme Court allowed states to ban or restrict transgender surgeries or hormonal treatments for minors.

Trump cheered the decision Tuesday as a "big win."

"The United States Supreme Court just RULED AGAINST MEN PLAYING IN WOMEN'S SPORTS. Wow! That takes that ridiculous situation off the table!!!" he posted on Truth Social.

However, Kavanaugh's opinion doesn't bar transgender females from competing in biological sports completely — but refers the question to individual states.

Bruce cheers ruling, rips Kat

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman applauded the Supreme Court's ruling upholding state bans on transgender athletes competing in women's sports Tuesday — as the court battle over Nassau County's own edict continued.

Blakeman, the Nassau executive, banned trans athletes from participating on women's sports teams in county-owned facilities, a prohibition that state Attorney General Letitia James has challenged in court.

"We made history in Nassau County when I signed the nation's first executive order protecting girls' sports," Blakeman said in a statement Tuesday.

"Today, the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional rights of women and girls to be protected from unfair and unsafe competition by biological males," he said — before taking aim at Democratic Gov. Hochul.

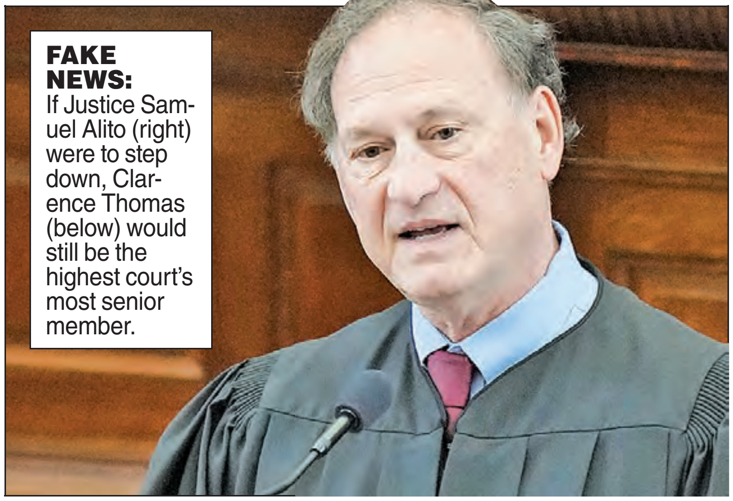
"But while the Court stood up for our daughters, Kathy Hochul continues putting them in danger by forcing biological males onto their teams," he said, accusing his election opponent of discriminating against biological female athletes.

A state supreme court last fall upheld Nassau's ban, which is in effect pending an appeal from opponents, including the AG, Blakeman's office said.

Nassau County Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cozzens ruled that Nassau's law was legal and meant to "protect women and girls in sports."

But the Long Island Roller Rebels — an adult recreational women's roller derby league based in Nassau for the last two decades — had sued over the law. They are now appealing the state court ruling, with James' support. The SCOTUS decision won't affect the ongoing legal fight, the AG claimed.

Carl Campanile and Vaughn Golden



FAKE NEWS: If Justice Samuel Alito (right) were to step down, Clarence Thomas (below) would still be the highest court's most senior member.

Getty Images/ Pool via CNP/MEGA

Objection! Alito not done

By JOSH CHRISTENSON
and STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — The news is fake, but the leaks are real?

NPR retracted a story Tuesday announcing the departure of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito — but multiple sources close to the conservative legal movement tell The Post there is indeed buzz he may retire before the November midterm elections.

The formerly publicly funded outlet posted the story, written by longtime legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg, moments after the Supreme Court finished its 2025-26 term, and cited a statement from the court's press office.

However, no such announcement was made, nor did Alito make any comment from the bench about his future.

"NPR's reporting regarding Justice Alito is inaccurate. And their reporting that there was any kind of court statement is inaccurate," court spokesperson Patricia McCabe told Politico.

It's common practice for major news outlets to pre-write articles on major looming events, such as the deaths of prominent people, which are sometimes published by accident. But it's unclear what exactly happened.

NPR editor in chief Tommy Evans said the inaccurate report was published "due to a misunderstanding."

"As soon as the error was realized, the story was retracted and removed from NPR's website and an on-air correction was broadcast," Evans added, noting that Totenberg "reached out to Justice Alito to apologize."

One source said the faux scoop notably aligned with "scuttlebutt" among leading DC conservatives who watch the courts.

Another insider close to legal developments said the article seemed to reflect that "they know it's coming, just pushed [publish] too soon."

A well-connected Republican operative noted that many people close to President Trump quietly hope Alito will retire — allowing Trump to replace one of his most closely aligned jurists with another like-minded judge before the opportunity passes.

If Republicans lose the Senate in the Nov. 3 midterms, Trump likely would need to compromise with Democrats and pick a more moderate candidate.

Alito, 76, joined the high court in 2006 as an appointee of President George W. Bush, filling the vacancy caused by the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Conservative Justice Clarence Thomas (pictured), 78, is the oldest justice, appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

Trump nominated three justices confirmed to the Supreme Court during his first term — Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

If Alito retired, Trump would get a fourth pick, the most of any president since Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Supremes nix prez's

By RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court smacked down President Trump's executive order denying birthright citizenship to children of illegal immigrants and tourists Tuesday, quashing a marquee policy of his for the second time in under five months.

Trump's day one order had been in limbo amid a legal battle over whether it violated the 14th Amendment, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

The court ruled 5-4 that even those "born in the United States to parents unlawfully or temporarily present" are covered by the Equal Protection Clause, meaning a change to the Constitution would be required to change their status — the worst-case scenario for the White House.

A sixth justice, Brett Kavanaugh, found the order did not violate the 14th Amendment, but did violate federal law from the 1940s and 1950s — and a change in the status of children born to foreigners could be brought about by Congress alone.

Meanwhile, Vice President JD Vance argued Tuesday there is a "big silver lining" in the ruling.

"I know a lot of conservatives,certainly the people that I'm talking to, that you're talking to, are extremely disappointed in this, but I do actually think there's a really big silver lining here, and that's the simple fact that a lot of legal experts expected this case to go the wrong direction by seven to two, or even eight to one," Vance said in an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

"The fact that this case was a 5-to-4 decision effectively means that the concept of birthright citizenship, which is an absurdity to the 14th Amendment, that concept is hanging by a thread," the vice president argued in his appearance on "The Ingraham Angle."

'Right to have rights'

Trump and his allies seized on Kavanaugh's rationale to attempt a long-shot fix in Congress, rather than by way of constitutional amendment.

"The [Supreme Court] majority tried to constitutionalize unlimited birthright citizenship. But Justice Kavanaugh MAY have left Congress a door," Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) wrote on X. "I'm filing legislation to walk through it."

Trump sarcastically said the birthright citizenship ruling was a gift to China, as The Post previously reported how often pregnant Chinese women were taking advantage of the birth tourism loophole. Trump long warned birthright citizenship was driving up illegal border crossings and pledged to end it as part of his broader immigration crackdown.

"The Supreme Court upheld Birthright Citizenship, which is too bad for our Country, but we can easily make it up in Congress through Legislation, with the support of the President, that has now been determined during this process," he wrote on Truth Social. "No long and unwieldy Constitutional Amendment is necessary!"

However, writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts rejected this "dramatically revisionist view" of the 14th Amendment and was joined in the majority by fellow conservative Amy Coney Barrett and liberal Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson, Elena Kagan, and Sonia Sotomayor — a rare combination on the divided court.

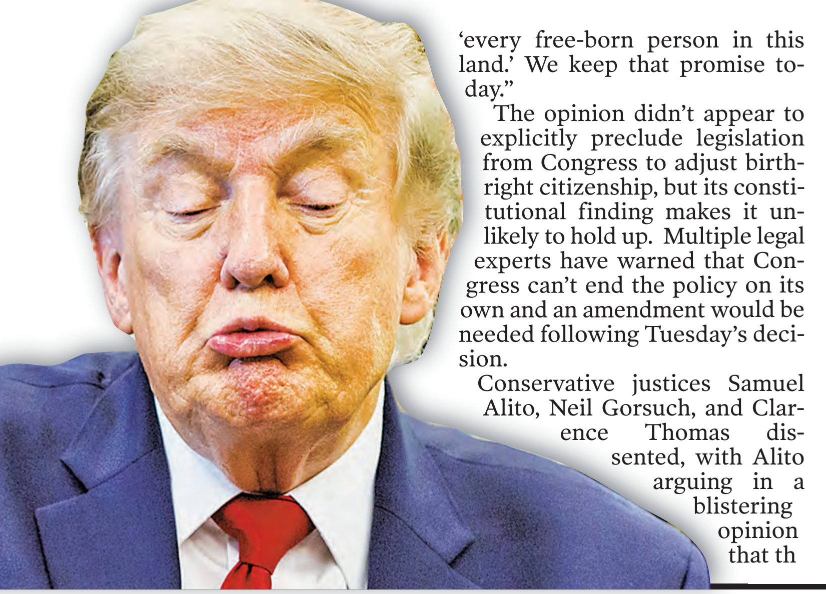
"Citizenship, then and now," Roberts concluded, "was the right to have rights — to freely participate in our political community. The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to

birthright citizenship order

TRUMP BORDER BATTLE DEFEAT

IN LIMBO: President Trump long warned that birthright citizenship was driving up illegal border crossings and pledged to end it as part of his broader immigration crackdown. His order was in limbo amid a legal battle over whether it violated the 14th Amendment.

Getty Images/MediaPunch/BACKGRID



'every free-born person in this land.' We keep that promise today."

The opinion didn't appear to explicitly preclude legislation from Congress to adjust birthright citizenship, but its constitutional finding makes it unlikely to hold up. Multiple legal experts have warned that Congress can't end the policy on its own and an amendment would be needed following Tuesday's decision.

Conservative justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, and Clarence Thomas dissented, with Alito arguing in a blistering opinion that the 14th Amendment "confers citizenship on only those children who, at birth, owe allegiance solely to this country."

"This is one of the most important decisions in the history of the Court, and in my judgment, the Court has made a serious mistake," he fumed. "The Fourteenth Amendment dictates who must be a citizen, but it does not address who may be a citizen by Act of Congress.

"The Court's interpretation saddles this country with an ancient British rule that even the United Kingdom has abandoned, as have other countries whose legal systems share the same pedigree," he went on. "The Court's interpretation preserves a powerful incentive to enter or remain in this country illegally."

Thomas was similarly scathing, writing that "the Court has repurposed the Fourteenth Amendment to protect its own set of preferred rights that the Reconstruction Congress never contemplated and that cannot find support in its text. Today, the Court does so again by recognizing a constitutional right to citizenship for the children of all foreign birth tourists and illegal aliens.

"I am not sure that today's opinion will stand the test of time," Thomas added. "The Citizenship Clause 'added greatly to the dignity and glory of American citizenship.' Today's opinion devalues that citizenship."

More than 250,000 babies born in the US each year would have been affected by the executive order, according to research by the Migration Policy Institute and Pennsylvania State University's Population Research Institute.

Trump became the first-ever sitting president to attend Supreme Court oral arguments when the justices heard the case April 1.

The administration had not been expected to prevail, with many experts expressing skepticism Trump could unilaterally restrict the definition of birthright citizenship via executive order.

No on 'emergency'

In February, Trump was dealt a similar blow when the Supreme Court ruled he couldn't use the International Economic Emergency Powers Act to impose customized tariffs on foreign countries at will.

The simplest way to add a constitutional amendment altering the definition of birthright citizenship is to have it approved by a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate along with 38 of the 50 state legislatures — a near-impossibility given ongoing political polarization.

A key precedent in the birthright case was the 1898 US v. Wong Kim Ark ruling, which dealt with a dispute over the status of a man born to Chinese immigrants who were in America legally but barred from being US citizens due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court sided with Wong and ruled that almost all native born children in the US automatically become citizens unless they are the offspring of occupying hostile forces, foreign rulers or diplomats, or born on foreign ships in US ports.

With Wires

Party elex spending limit lifted

WASHINGTON — In a seismic ruling for campaign finance law, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that federal limits on coordinated spending between political parties and their preferred candidates are unconstitutional.

The 6-3 ruling paves the way for Republicans to exploit their massive fundraising advantage in the 2026 midterm elections as they try to keep control of the House and Senate.

"The Court's decision today treats all political parties equally. It will allow all political parties — including the DNC and RNC and the respective Senate and House campaign committees, as well as other parties and party committees — to participate more freely and compete more fully in the political process," Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote for the majority.

Kavanaugh argued that limits on parties' coordinated expenditures restrict their "speech in support of their own candidates during political campaigns."

The National Republican Senatorial Committee had mounted a First Amendment challenge in 2022 to the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

In past elections, the Federal Election Commission adjusted the limit for inflation and based in part on each state's population. Last year, it ranged from $127,200 to $3.9 million for Senate candidates; and $63,000 to $127,200 for House candidates. *Ryan King*

Ala. justice denied, too

The Supreme Court on Monday blocked a bid by former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore to collect an $8.2 million defamation award stemming from a Democratic campaign ad that ran during his unsuccessful 2017 Senate bid.

Moore, 79, had asked the court to stay an April ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals that reversed a federal jury's 2022 finding against the Democratic-aligned Senate Majority PAC.

Justice Clarence Thomas declined Moore's emergency application without explanation, as is common in such cases.

Samuel Chamberlain, Wires

Pool opening stalled for 2nd year

WATERED DOWN: A father plays with his daughter at the Red Hook Pool in better days years ago. The pool is closed due to a flood in its filtration system that was discovered last week.

Gregory P. Mango; Paul Martinka

By GEORGETT ROBERTS
and NICOLE ROSENTHAL

RED HOOK IN FOR HOT TIME

One of the city's largest pools will be closed during this week's scorching heat wave and for most of next month because of "unforeseen" mechanical issues, marking the second straight year the aging community "lifeline" has suffered a shutdown.

The Red Hook Pool, among five Olympic-sized tubs in Brooklyn, was closed during the citywide outdoor pool opening day Saturday "due to the sudden, unforeseen failure of mechanical equipment," Parks Department reps said.

No alternative

The nearly century-old summer oasis won't be open for most of July, either, joining several pools citywide that remain closed at the onset of the season, the department said.

Among the other shut pools is the Douglass and DeGraw Pool in Gowanus — due to a "category 2 water quality issue" — which is the backup that the Parks' website directs Red Hook families to use as an alternative.

"It's very disappointing," said Red Hook mother Karin-Jolie Rosado. "We waited all year for this. It was closed last summer . . . They should have resolved the issues by now."

Last year's opening of the 90-year-old pool complex was delayed until August because of a broken decades-old pipe, according to The City Reporter.

This year's delay is blamed on a flooded filter plant beneath the pool that damaged motors and other equipment, a Parks rep said, adding that the discovery was made only four days before opening day.

"This could've been avoided," said Adam Ganser, executive director of the advocacy group New Yorkers for Parks, who called the matter "at its purest form, a staffing issue."

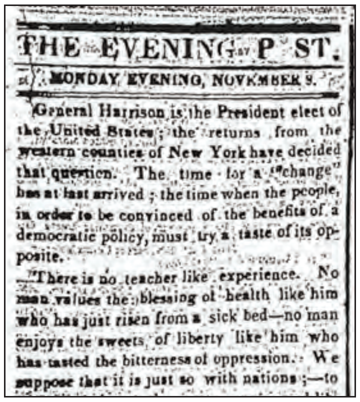
The policy group noted that an estimated 50 plumbers on Parks' payroll is far below the number needed to maintain the city's 1,700 parks and playgrounds.

The group is renewing calls for the agency to fund an additional 150 tradespeople to maintain its aging infrastructure.

Ganser called the pool a "lifeline" for city dwellers, especially ahead of the summer's first "heat dome" situation and triple-digit temperatures expected later this week.

The pool is one of several sites closed for unplanned maintenance as of Tuesday afternoon, Parks said, while two other pools are under construction as part of long-term capital improvements.

"Pools generally experience temporary closures for a variety of reasons: mechanical, sanitary, weather, etc.," a Parks rep told The Post. The Red Hook facility has been earmarked for a $122 million renovation set to begin in 2028, the rep said.



THE EVENING POST.

MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 9.

General Harrison is the President elect of the United States; the returns from the western counties of New York have decided that question. The time for a "change" has at last arrived; the time when the people, in order to be convinced of the benefits of a democratic policy, must try a taste of its opposite.

"There is no teacher like experience. No man values the blessing of health like him who has just risen from a sick bed—no man enjoys the sweets of liberty like him who has tasted the bitterness of oppression. We suppose that it is just so with nations;—to

'Tipp'ing election scales

The Post is counting down to America's 250th birthday with a look back at the nation's — and the paper's — history. Every day leading up to the big event on July 4, we're publishing notable covers and stories from our archives:

"Tippecanoe and Tyler Too"
Nov. 9, 1840

"General Harrison is the President elect of the United States," The Evening Post declared after Whig party nominee William Henry Harrison, and his running mate, John Tyler, defeated incumbent Democrat Martin Van Buren in a landslide.

The 1840 election was the first modern campaign in the country's history, with raucous rallies, widely distributed pamphlets and trash-talk.

Happy
250th,
USA!

Harrison painted Van Buren as a snobby elite, while casting himself as a simple man who lived in a log cabin and drank cider — though he came from Virginia aristocracy.

A catchy, now-famous campaign song, "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too," declared Van Buren a "used-up man" while emphasizing Harrison's military service.

He earned the nickname "Tippecanoe" after leading US forces to victory over Shawnee Indians and other tribes in the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe.

Hailey Eber

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Tue.: **658**
■ Midday Win-4 Tue.: **3435**
■ Midday Take-5 Tue.: **3, 7, 15, 18, 36**
■ Evening Nos. Tue.: **522**
■ Evening Win-4 Tue.: **2435**
■ Evening Take-5 Tue.: **4, 13, 19, 22, 27**
■ Pick-10 Tue.: **2, 6, 7, 10, 18, 36, 39, 41, 45, 46, 54, 55, 58, 60, 63, 71, 72, 73, 78, 80**
■ Millionaire for Life Tue.: **1, 4, 9, 45, 54**; MB: **2**
■ Mega Millions Tue.: **26, 41, 50, 53, 62**; MB: **12**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Tue.: **444;** Fireball: **6**
■ Pick-4 Tue.: **6566;** Fireball: **6**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Tue.: **3, 12, 32, 35, 45**; Xtra: **2**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Tue.: **833;** Wild: **5**
■ Play-4 Tue.: **9117;** Wild: **3**
■ Cash-5 Tue.: **6, 10, 12, 17, 30**

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1. Source: 2025 Profitero Price Wars Study. Based on national analysis of 10,000+ identical products across 23 leading U.S. online retailers.
2. Source: 2025 JAMA Network Study. Pharmacy Subscription Program and Medication Refills, Days' Supply, and Out-of-Pocket Costs.

Pol back after 4-mo. depression fight

By CHRIS NESI

Reuters

'GRATEFUL': Rep. Tom Kean Jr., who hasn't cast a vote since March 5, returns to Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

Kean returns from the dark

New Jersey Congressman Tom Kean Jr. has revealed the reason behind his lengthy absence that kept him out of public view for nearly four months.

"I am a private person by nature . . . talking about myself has never come naturally. But I believe that I owe an explanation to the people of New Jersey's 7th District, to my colleagues in this chamber and to the American people for my absence," he began from the podium Tuesday morning.

"Several months ago due to health concerns, I entered the hospital for some testing. I did not believe that this would result in a long-term stay. I was given the diagnosis of depression," Kean, 57, said in the extraordinary speech on the House floor.

"Now when people hear the word depression, many people think, simply feel, it means feeling sad. But depression is so much more than that. It is physical, it is emotional, and until you experience it yourself, it is difficult to fully understand how powerful this illness can be."

Despite feeling hesitant, Kean said he stayed in the hospital at the recommendation of his doctors, a decision he came to be grateful for.

'Excited to return'

"I began to understand not only my diagnosis, but how long depression had been affecting my life," he said.

"When I first informed the public that I was dealing with a medical issue, I was still trying to understand what was happening myself," he said of the shroud of secrecy behind his absence.

"When I said I hope to return in a matter of weeks, I believed it. Those were the best estimates that the doctor could provide. But as the over 48 million of my fellow Americans being treated for this illness have come to discover, there is no timeline for healing. There is no timeline for recovery. Only the work of getting better one day at a time," he said.

"Today I am grateful that I listened to my doctors . . . I am grateful that I accepted help. Because today I stand before you healthier, stronger and excited to return to the work that I love."

Kean returned to his Westfield home Wednesday evening but declined to speak to a New York Times reporter, saying, "It's good to see you. I'll talk to you next week."

The Republican's spokesman, Harrison Neely, told the outlet in a subsequent text message Kean would be "fully transparent" when he returned to work June 30.

Rumors swirled in Kean's absence as his team wouldn't comment on his disappearance beyond calling it a "personal health matter" and claiming the congressman was "focused on his recovery."

Kean hasn't cast a House vote since March 5, missing more than 140 roll calls since. Some constituents had complained their calls or emails had gone unanswered.

During his absence, Kean won the Republican nomination for a third House term repping New Jersey's 7th Congressional District after running in the primary unopposed.

He will face Democrat Rebecca Bennett in a race seen by many as a toss-up.

3 bogus 'Guthrie abduct' ransom notes

Three ransom notes received from Nancy Guthrie's so-called abductors following her chilling Feb. 1 disappearance have been determined to be fake communications, according to a new report.

Federal investigators determined that all three letters in relation to the kidnapping of "Today" show co-host Savannah Guthrie's 84-year-old mother were not authentic, an anonymous FBI official told Reuters.

A second law enforcement source familiar with the matter confirmed the FBI's assessment.

Guthrie — who authorities believe was abducted from her Tucson, Ariz. home — has been missing for five months.

The first ransom note sent to TMZ demanded a sum of cryptocurrency "in the millions" to be paid, setting two deadlines for payment, on Feb. 5 and 9.

The second ransom note, as reported by NBC last week, suggested Guthrie had died and did not demand payment for the return of her body.

A source also said the FBI determined that the third note sent to TMZ last week that claimed to know the identities of Guthrie's abductors was not authentic — but did not specify how that conclusion was drawn.

The Post reached out to the FBI but did not immediately hear back.

Ella Morrison, Wires

Gateway back on track

A Manhattan federal judge permanently blocked the Trump administration Monday from withholding federal money meant for the $16 billion Gateway tunnel project underneath the Hudson River, saying an attempt to do so this past September was "flagrantly" illegal.

The order by US District Judge Jeanette Vargas supplements a temporary restraining order she granted Feb. 6 against the administration's claim that New Jersey and New York did not have standing to challenge the freeze.

"Defendants do not dispute that the suspension of federal grants flagrantly violates federal law," Vargas wrote.

The US Transportation Department initially claimed it was withholding the money while it assessed whether the Gateway Development Commission was complying with federal anti-discrimination laws in the awarding of contracts on the project.

However, Vargas cited Trump's own statements that he was punishing Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for his role in forcing a government shutdown that lasted more than six weeks.

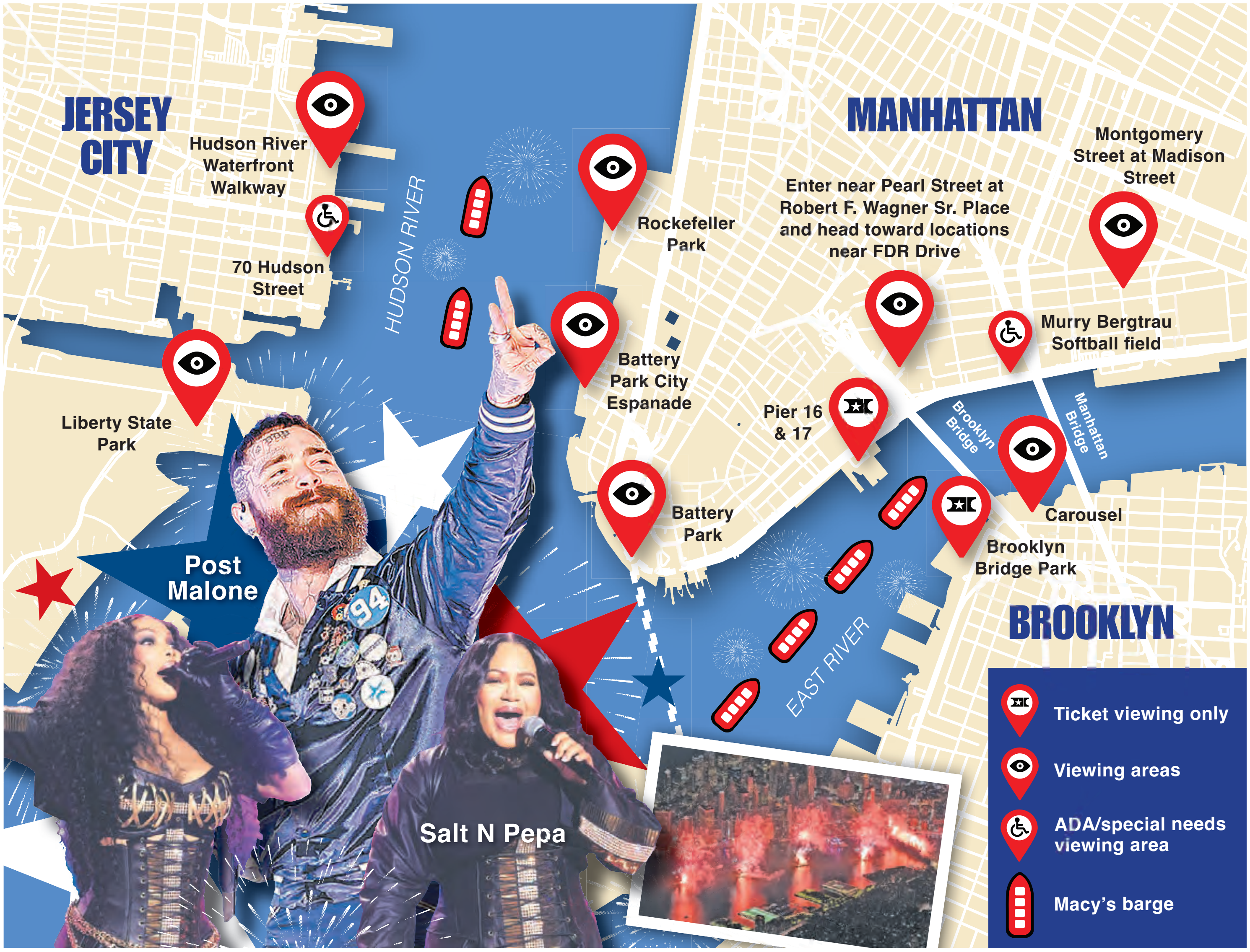
Samuel Chamberlain

Corpse at Qns. school

An exterminator found a rotting corpse wedged in the chimney of a Queens public school Tuesday morning after he was called to investigate a putrid odor, cops and sources said.

The pest control worker made the grisly discovery of a male's body just before 9 a.m. when a janitor called him to PS/IS 113 in Glendale, said authorities and law-enforcement sources. The sources said they were looking into whether anyone involved in recent construction at the school was recently reported missing.

Joe Marino, Fenix Suriel, Amanda Woods and Katherine Donlevy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Battery Park
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Murry Bergtrau Softball field
Pier 16 & 17
Brooklyn Bridge
Manhattan Bridge
Carousel
Brooklyn Bridge Park
EAST RIVER
BROOKLYN
Post Malone
Salt N Pepa
Ticket viewing only
Viewing areas
ADA/special needs viewing area
Macy's barge

It'll be a blast on both rivers

Red, white and dual views!

The Macy's Fourth of July fireworks will shoot off from both the East and Hudson rivers — a rare spectacle as New York City gears up to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Macy's iconic, patriotic fireworks show — also marking its own half-century anniversary — is planned to illuminate the Brooklyn Bridge and delight spectators from both the Big Apple and Jersey City.

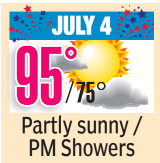
"We are proud to celebrate our 50th anniversary with a once-in-a-generation experience filled with emotional storytelling and signature spectacle to connect millions of people nationwide," Sharon Otterman, chief marketing officer for Macy's, said in a statement.

The annual pyrotechnic extravaganza has alternated between the East and Hudson rivers over the years, but seldom is held in both waterways.

Mayor Mamdani held a now-closed lottery giving away 100,000 free tickets for prime East River viewing areas in Brooklyn Bridge Park and Manhattan's Seaport. *Larry Celona*

Rain may dampen spirits

A wave of thunderstorms and hail could hammer the Big Apple on the Fourth of July as a vicious five-day heat dome cooks revelers in nearly 100-degree swelter — making the holiday the hottest in nearly 20 years.



Partly sunny / PM Showers

Independence Day festivities Saturday afternoon and evening are in the crosshairs of the potential torrential rains, damaging winds and hail as temperatures are set to hit 95 degrees — the hottest July 4 since 2010, AccuWeather meteorologists said Tuesday. *Anna Young*

LIVING THE 'DREAM'

Land of opportunity for most in US: poll

By CARL CAMPANILE

The American dream is alive and well.

Two-thirds of US residents say they have achieved the American dream or are on their way to it, while a growing number believe it's increasingly becoming a pipe dream, a survey ahead of America's 250th anniversary found.

The poll revealed 67% of respondents had achieved the American dream (28%) or were pursuing it (39%), 64% believe the land of opportunity can unite Americans, and 71% say they have similar or more opportunities than their parents, according to DC-based Archbridge Institute think tank, which conducted the survey.

Meanwhile, 73% of respondents said they're proud to be American, and 70% say being an American is an important part of their identity.

However, the findings also show that optimism in the American dream has dropped, with the share of respondents who said it is "out of reach" surging from a low of 18% in 2022 to an all-time high of 33% this year.

Younger Americans are significantly more negative than older ones, according to the poll.

And while over 80% of Americans are hopeful about their own future, only 58% say the same for the US writ large.

Likewise, only 48% believe most Americans can achieve the dream, while 52% think it's unreachable.

The "American Dream at 250" survey of 2,100 Americans — polled April 2-6 — also shows that US residents have concerns and struggles.

Unites the States

For example, 43% of respondents worry that artificial intelligence will hinder their ability to achieve the American dream, while only 18% said it would help them. The remaining 39% believe it would have no effect.

Of those who said the American dream is out of reach, nearly two-thirds cited economic barriers as the culprit — more than all of the other reasons given combined.

Still, 64% agreed that the American dream can unite Americans around a shared belief, regardless of their different backgrounds and viewpoints; 35% disagreed.

On the whole, a majority of residents view America optimistically, as if the glass is half-full.

"At 250 years old, the American Dream's death is greatly exaggerated, and public opinion proves it," said Archbridge president and CEO Gonzalo Schwarz.

"While Americans are increasingly pessimistic about affordability and AI in today's America, there is still overwhelming consensus that the American Dream is achievable across demographic groups and regardless of political party. This bodes well for national unity."

$126B BUDGET

NICOLE GELINAS

Council's helping to rig housing

YOU know Gotham is careening toward fiscal crisis when the City Council's problem with the socialist mayor is that Zohran K. Mamdani . . . is not socialist enough.

In negotiating his first city budget with supposedly moderate Council Speaker Julie Menin, Mamdani resisted socializing thousands of existing private apartments.

But Lenin — er, Menin — won.

Tuesday, in their $125.8 billion deal, Mamdani and Menin agreed to expand an 8-year-old de Blasio-era housing program called City Fighting Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement.

Under FHEPS, the city gives vouchers to people who are in a homeless shelter or who are at risk of being evicted from their apartment.

With the voucher, a tenant can rent an apartment to get out of the shelter or stay in her existing apartment and limit her rent to 30% of her income.

City taxpayers cover the rest, based on "fair market rents" that exceed $3,500 a month in some neighborhoods.

Runaways eligible

As of last fall, 65,092 New York City households were using FHEPS vouchers, according to city Comptroller Mark Levine — growth of nearly one-third over a year.

Taxpayers spent $1.2 billion on the program in 2025, four times the cost of the 2022 figure. And that figure could have been higher.

Former Mayor Eric Adams had resisted an earlier expansion, which would have been so expensive that the Council didn't even try to estimate its costs.

The comptroller's best guess was $1.1 billion to $4.5 billion per year.

Mamdani realized quickly that such costs exceeded his socialist budget, and he tried to limit the expansion, too.

But he and Menin agreed Tuesday: In lieu of the bigger program that Adams had resisted, they would launch a new expansion, adding at least $175 million for this new fiscal year, starting Wednesday, and $125 million annually after that.

How did City Hall cut the cost down?

Not through tightly restricting eligibility.

A family of three making up to $76,350, half the area's median income, will be eligible, as long as they are in housing court with an eviction case on a rent-regulated apartment.

Runaway youth can apply, as can "justice-involved individuals" (people just out of prison).

Work requirement? "The department shall not consider whether a household is employed as a condition of eligibility," says the Council, removing a modest earlier mandate.

Distorting demand

No, Mamdani and Menin are "controlling" costs by decree: When it's out of its $175 million for this year, the city will stop handing out vouchers — no matter how many people have applied.

How quickly Mamdani and Menin grasp that socialism requires rationing!

The Council's new $175 million will cover only 8,000 or so new households — when, by definition, a quarter of the city earns below 50% of the city's median income.

Even after subtracting people already in public housing or who don't have or can't find rent-regulated apartments or who don't have legal immigration status, that's still a lot of people.

And more people who don't already have their own apartments will inevitably enter shelter just to obtain a voucher.

The shelter population already is close to 83,000, compared to below 60,000 pre-2020.

So it's easy to see where this is going: Massive demand for vouchers will "prove" that the city needs to expand supply, the Council will argue next year.

This demand will further distort the housing market, as people with vouchers will compete with everyone else for rent-stabilized apartments.

And after tenants obtain a voucher, good for five years and renewable after that, they'll stay put, further decreasing supply.

Just like with NYCHA housing, this program discourages work — at least on-the-books work — as a tenant with higher income must pay more of that income in rent.

We're going to need a lot more capitalism — such as higher Wall Street bonuses next year — to pay for all this socialism.

Nicole Gelinas is a contributing editor at the Manhattan Institute's City Journal.

By CRAIG McCARTHY
and MATT TROUTMAN

SHAKY: Mayor Mamdani and City Council Speaker Julie Menin shake on a city budget that swelled to a record $126 billion while aggravating Democratic moderates and the far-left flank alike.

Zo's busting the budget.

Mayor Mamdani's inaugural, record-breaking nearly $126 billion budget passed Tuesday — growing city spending by more than $10 billion from last year despite his past dire warnings about the Big Apple's financial situation.

The under-the-wire vote by the City Council came just hours before a Wednesday deadline and after frantic last-minute attempts to drum up votes for a spending deal that disappointed lefties and moderates alike.

The budget, which includes no significant cuts, ballooned from last year's roughly $116 billion spending plan for an approximate 8.5% increase. It passed 45-6, largely on party lines.

And while the democratic socialist mayor managed to balance the budget, city Comptroller Mark Levine noted that he only did so by using $6.1 billion in one-time tricks and short-term savings.

"This agreement gets the city through an exceptionally difficult year, but it does not resolve the structural challenges ahead," Levine said.

"With large out-year gaps, limited reserves and significant economic uncertainty, next year's budget could be even more difficult."

The city faces a whopping $8.8 billion shortfall for the next budget, according to the city comptroller's office — setting up Mamdani and the council for a potential bruising rehash of this year's topsy-turvy negotiations.

Fiscal crisis delayed

Mamdani and City Council Speaker Julie Menin dutifully smiled for the cameras as they announced their handshake budget deal Tuesday morning, but their grins belied long-simmering tensions. The budget hit an 11th-hour snag over Mamdani backtracking on a campaign promise to fund the expansion of a housing voucher program — a darling of progressive lawmakers that comes with a hefty price tag.

A skin-of-their-teeth deal preserved the cityFHEPS expansion — adding $175 million to $1.7 billion already on the books — and dropped a contentious lawsuit that Mamdani pursued, much to the dismay of his progressive allies.

And many moderates were blindsided by Mamdani flip-flopping on his promise to add 580 NYPD officers — itself a 180 from his campaign promises that angered his lefty comrades, who mounted a pressure crusade that seemingly led to his reversal.

The final $125.8 billion budget deal for the 2027 fiscal year included several notable funding increases. The budget also puts $350 million in general reserves, a fund that can provide a cushion if belt-tightening is needed in the year.

"Two steps forward, one step back slow walks the restructuring needed to stave off a fiscal crisis," summed up Andrew Rein, president of the watchdog Citizens Budget Commission.

A fiscal crisis is what Mamdani claimed the city faced after he took office in January, blaming former

'BALLOONY'

James Keivom

After all his campaign rants, Zo *adds* $10B

Up, up and …

Here's how much the following city departments will be getting in the upcoming budget, compared to last year:

NYPD: $6.6B	▲ $300M
Department of Education: $38B	▲ $2.9B
Department of Transportation: $1.6B	▲ $132M
Department of Health: $2.6B	▲ $203M
Dept. of Homeless Services: $4.2B	▲ $662M
Department of Housing: $1.5B	▼ $72M
FDNY: $2.7B	▲ $48M
Department of Correction: $1.3B	▲ $46M
Department of Parks and Recreation: $685M	▼ $2.3M
Sanitation Department: $2.1B	▲ $123M

Mayor Eric Adams for leaving him with a $12 billion budget shortfall. The mayor revised the estimate to $5.4 billion, contending the gap could be bridged either by taxing the rich or hiking property taxes nearly 10% across the board.

The clear ploy to pressure Gov. Hochul and the state Legislature to approve a levy on the wealthy dovetailed with Mamdani backing $23 billion in new taxes during his early days in office.

Few of those taxes came to fruition aside from a pied-à-terre tax on luxury second homes, which officials estimated would generate between $340 million and $500 million in annual revenue.

Mamdani was more successful, however, in securing $4 billion in effective bailouts from Hochul that largely delayed massive spending.

Heat's on Hizzoner after cop drop

His cop-out is going to hurt.

Mayor Mamdani caved to the left on the NYPD's headcount — getting rid of a promised 580 new officers in the upcoming city budget — just as the stretched-thin force faces a "massive summer workload," critics railed Tuesday.

NYPD officials contended they'd make do without the new cops, but unions said the department's nearly 35,000 headcount was already inadequate — as officers face extended shifts to cover a slew of high-profile events in the coming months.

"The massive summer workload is just starting to hit, and police officers are already burning out and leaving by the hundreds," said Police Benevolent Association boss Patrick Hendry.

The nation's largest police department has long faced a staffing crunch, with retirements outpacing new recruits every year since 2020.

Mamdani, a Democratic Socialist who once called to "defund the police," courted fellow lefties during last year's mayoral election by promising to freeze the NYPD's headcount at 35,000.

But once in office, Mamdani flip-flopped on his campaign pledge and proposed within his executive budget to add the nearly 600 cops.

As budget negotiations went down the wire ahead of Tuesday's deadline, Mamdani again pulled a 180. He walked back his plan to boost the ranks, blindsiding City Council Speaker Julie Menin late Monday as the pair firmed up a handshake agreement over the budget, sources said.

Joe Marino, Craig McCarthy, Matt Troutman

Qns. Dem: We need more cops

PHIL WONG

Democratic City Council member Phil Wong, who represents Central Queens, here questions why Mayor Mamdani's budget includes no new NYPD officers.

NEW Yorkers do not judge public safety by City Hall press releases. They judge it by whether someone answers when a neighborhood is in trouble.

That is why it is so disappointing" the mayor's "$125.8 billion budget does not add a single NYPD officer.

Across the city, precincts answer 911 calls, investigate crimes, patrol streets and handle quality-of-life problems before they become bigger ones. They cannot do it all when stretched thin.

In April, more than 100 vehicles took over 69th Street and Eliot Avenue in Queens. Drivers did donuts around a fire between two gas stations, blocked the road and damaged a marked NYPD vehicle.

This was not some harmless meetup. It was chaos. Officers were handling another car meetup elsewhere.

That is the reality when lawlessness erupts in more than one place: understaffed precincts make impossible choices. The NYPD has made arrests, but five people tied to the Eliot Avenue takeover are still wanted.

At Juniper Valley Park, I saw dozens of e-bikes recklessly circling the track. My office called the precinct and was told officers would respond. They never did. About an hour later, a 5-year-old girl was struck by an e-bike.

When we called again, we were told only two patrol cars were out covering one of the city's largest precincts. Our cops are doing their best. But they cannot be everywhere at once, and families should not have to wait until someone is hurt before a dangerous situation gets attention.

Mamdani had room in this budget to make public safety a priority. At $125.8 billion, that is not a lack of resources. It is a choice.

Iran & Oman want 'voluntary' ship fee

IT'S A TOLL, STRAIT UP

HORMOOCH: A ship sits anchored without transiting the Strait of Hormuz, as Iran and Oman are reportedly planning to charge a "voluntary" passage fee for using the strait that's tantamount to a toll forbidden by Washington.

AP

By RONNY REYES

Iran and Oman have agreed to move forward with a plan to collect "voluntary" fees from ships sailing through the Strait of Hormuz, according to multiple reports.

Oman, a US ally that originally said it opposed an Iranian toll scheme in the vital waterway, delivered a formal proposal to America and other allies on which shipping companies would have to pay service fees to use the strait, The New York Times reported.

Oman claimed that the proposal is modeled on fees collected for the straits of Malacca and Singapore in Southeast Asia, where voluntary contributions are collected to ensure safe navigation.

$40 billion a year

While one of the regional diplomats told the Times the fees would be voluntary, the Iranian officials insisted the payments would be obligatory.

The plan has another key difference to the Strait of Malacca tolls: On 15 years, the Aids to Navigation Fund, operated by Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, has collected just $23 million.

Iran projected the Hormuz tolls could bring in $40 billion per year.

Details of the plan come just a day after Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi expressed support for a joint plan with Iran to impose "maritime service fees" on the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Press TV reported.

Busaidi said Muscat remains opposed to Iran's direct toll scheme for the critical oil choke point, but he claimed the fees were necessary to keep navigation in the waters safe.

"Some services may include enhancing navigational safety, protecting waters from pollution and increasing preparedness to deal with accidents or emergencies," the minister said of the collection plan.

The position echoes a joint statement from Tehran and Muscat last week that the governments refused to rule out collecting fees in the Strait of Hormuz after the Trump administration publicly insisted that Tehran can't charge tolls.

'Unacceptable'

The developments threaten to permanently change the strait, which oversees the transport of 20% of the world's oil supply.

Before the US and Israel launched its war with Iran, the international shipping route was free and open to the more than 130 vessels that sailed through its waters every day.

It remains unclear whether or not the US will accept Oman's plan to charge voluntary service fees following President Trump's repeated insistence that the Strait of Hormuz should remain free waters for all.

The president previously described any tolls or fees schemes along the strait as "unacceptable," going as far as to threaten Oman if it did not "behave just like everybody else."

rreyes@nypost.com

Oil flow? Yes & no

Oil flow through the Strait of Hormuz has returned to — and sometimes exceeds — pre-war levels, despite lower total traffic, Vice President JD Vance said Tuesday.

"The strait is open in the sense that we're seeing more oil come out of the strait — and some days even more oil" than before the war, Vance told "The Michael Knowles Show."

Still, he said traffic is way below the pre-war daily average of between 130 and 150 ship passages. About 240 ships transited the strait last week, officials said. *Caitlin Doornbox*

Mullahs haven't gotten moolah

Iran hasn't received any of the $6 billion in frozen assets the US pledged in exchange for progress implementing the US-Iran memorandum of understanding, an administration official exclusively told The Post on Tuesday, luring Iran back to the negotiating table in Qatar.

"No frozen funds have been released and no frozen funds will be released unless Iran meets the requirements outlined in the MOU," the person said. "Nothing is given for free and everything is tied to benchmarks."

While Iran has sought a lump-sum payment of the funds, the US intends to make small, incremental payouts — directly to vendors — as Iran progresses in key areas, the US official said.

"Iran started these talks demanding that it receive its frozen funds and assets upon the signing of this MOU," the official explained. "We rejected that and they eventually conceded that they will not receive any money unless they perform."

The update on the Qatar-held frozen funds came as US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner landed in Doha — a day ahead of an Iranian delegation's planned trip to the capital city, where Iranian sources say Tehran intends to hammer out how to access the frozen funds.

Iran on Monday denied reports that it would be returning to negotiate with the Americans this week — but the statement appeared to reflect Tehran splitting hairs on the structure of the talks, Vice President JD Vance told "The Michael Knowles Show" on Tuesday.

"One of the things I find just fascinating and frustrating about the Iranians is they'll say, 'No, no. There aren't peace talks ongoing, but there are technical talks between the United States and Iran about the peace deals,'" he said.

Caitlin Doornbos

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Getty

Dems turn into Jew-hating cult

THE rise of the Socialist left in New York is a bad omen for obvious reasons. The radical agenda is uniformly anti-police, pro-criminal, favors wildly expanded government powers over private property and demands punishing taxes on businesses and high-income families to fund its redistribution schemes.

If that were all, it would still be a destructive and dangerous movement. But the post-election analysis from last week's New York primary races finds another driving force among the winning candidates.

Namely, the hatred of all things Israel, and those who dare support the Jewish state.

It hardly needs to be said that the pied piper of this sickening eruption is Mayor Mamdani. He started it and continues to fan the flames of antisemitism. And now New Yorkers have made the added mistake of electing a cadre of clones.

As Jay Jacobs, the beleaguered Democratic Party's state leader, told The Post, the pro-Palesinian, anti-Israel furor "was a more important issue" in luring voters to races that otherwise had very low turnouts. Overall, only abut 17% of registered Dems voted in the districts where the Socialist candidates beat other Dems, some of them incumbents.

ADL blames hate, too

The Anti-Defamation League effectively reached the same conclusion, saying the three hotly contested congressional primary winners rode to victory on a "movement built on antisemitic rhetoric."

It said that as Mamdani walked through an election night victory party of the Democratic Socialists of America, some people chanted "from the river to the sea," part of a coded Palestinian message calling for the elimination of Israel.

"We're witnessing candidates succeed not in spite of demonizing rhetoric against the Jewish community and the Jewish state, but because of it," the organization added.

It also made a larger point by noting that, "When leaders cheer slogans that dehumanize Jews, it does not stay at a victory party. It bleeds into schools, neighborhoods and daily life, putting Jewish families, children and neighborhoods at risk."

Against that backdrop, the surge of hate crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions is not a coincidence.

The attacks are the poisoned fruits of a movement based on hate.

That this is happening in New York is more than a minor rupture with the past. For much of the past 50 years, Democrats were the most ardent and consistent supporters of Israel.

At the same time, in many Jewish households, being a Dem and voting for the party's candidates became near-religious rituals.

Jews played pivotal roles in the civil rights movement, and have been in the forefront of most liberal causes ever since.

But the party has changed dramatically in recent years. Barack Obama started his presidency by apologizing to Arabs for America's Mideast policies.

Beyond his ignorance about much of that history, he demonstrated complete disdain for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Along with his championing Palestinian causes, the moves made Obama the most unpopular American president in Israel since its post-World-War II founding.

It's now clear that the Obama years opened the door for an even bigger shift in the Dems' view of Israel, which has declined sharply in the past three years.

The oddest thing is what propelled it to change so quickly. Pollsters have noted a decided turn against Israel since the savage Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack.

A February Gallup survey reported that only 33% of Democrats say they are pro-Israel, while 60% say they view our close ally unfavorably. Gallup says that is the first time a majority of any political party held negative views on the Jewish state since the question was first asked in 1989.

Dem future at stake

The finding comes despite the horrors of the Hamas attack, but timing suggests Dem views were changed by distorted media coverage of the war in Gaza that followed and that converted Palestinians into the victims.

The bestial slaughter of 1,200 Israelis, most of them civilians, including women and children, who were, raped, killed or taken hostage, were shoved aside by inflated figures about Palestinian casualties released by Hamas propaganda outlets.

Much of that coverage, from American television networks, wire services and leftist outlets led by The New York Times, amplified Hamas' false charges of genocide and the starvation of children.

As the incomparable Douglas Murray wrote, Israel is the only nation not allowed to win a war.

The media's stew of falsehoods helped to launch the keffiyeh-wearing mobs on elite college campuses, many of whom demonstrated their antisemitism and their ignorance by denouncing Israel as a colonialist state that has no basis in the region.

That same movement then helped to propel Mamdani from Albany's back-benches into City Hall. That he vowed not to visit Israel and to arrest Netanyahu if he ever came to New York, breathed new life into the coals of the ancient hatred.

Never mind that Netanyahu was indicted by the International Criminal Court, which the US does not recognize. What mattered most was that Mamdani expressed his contempt for all things Israel, a view he has repeatedly offered, most recently by being the first mayor in six decades to boycott New York's Israel Day Parade. And now his example and support have elected some like-minded bigots.

How and where this ends is impossible to predict, but it seems to me that there are two possible outcomes. Either decent and wise Dems will rise up and marginalize the Jew haters, or watch as their party is completely consumed by them.

Left even rips 'trans' common sense

The Supreme Court ruling that upholds states' rights to ban transgender athletes from competing in girls and women' sports provoked wailing from the usual suspects.

New York Attorney General Letitia James denounced what she called "cruel and discriminatory laws targeting the trans community," and accused the court of deciding to continue on a "dangerous and harmful path."

Oh, please.

She said the ruling "ignores fact, science, and decency in favor of abandoning young trans people nationwide."

Well, yes, it does discriminate against men who are not biological females participating against those who are. That's not discrimination — it's common sense and fairness.

Has James not seen the lopsided results in swimming and other sports when males who claim they are females are allowed to participate? Where is her compassion for females by birth who unfairly lost awards and sometimes suffered physical injuries as a result?

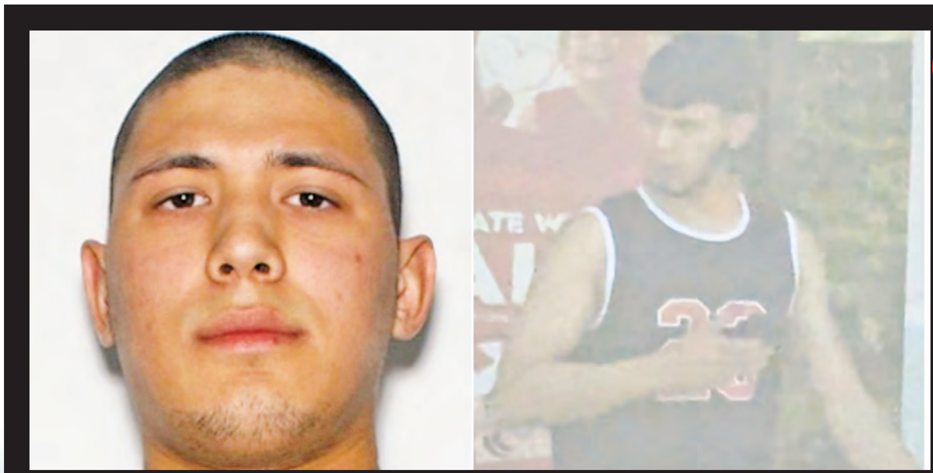
The New York Times also offered its warped opinion in a so-called news article. Headlined, " 'Heartbreaking' Ruling Leaves Trans Advocates Crestfallen," the paper said the decision "was the latest in a series of defeats."

After citing President Trump and others hailing the ruling, the Gray Lady left the impression that America is full of bigots and that the ruling gives them aid and comfort.

Fair play and the safety of biological females were not mentioned. Of course not.

Mob ran $1B Medicare scheme

By CHADWICK MOORE



1 Men arrived from Russia and other countries to "run" medical companies. In one case, Kazakh national Anuar Abdrakhmanov (left) arrived on a visitor's visa but was able to procure a New York state driver's license.

RACKET OUT OF RUSSIA

A quiet Brooklyn storefront served as a key part of a $1 billion Medicare fraud scheme led by the Russian mob, a federal indictment charges, and could even have been backed by the Kremlin.

The scheme was so brazen, one medical-supply company linked to the outfit submitted bills totaling more than $250 million for urinary catheters in 2023 alone, according to the feds.

The number was so large it amounted to $50 million more than the combined spend of every other medical provider in the country on catheters that year.

The scam started in 2022 when a Russia-based transnational criminal organization bought up over 30 medical supply companies across the US — from California to Texas to Chicago — already enrolled in Medicare, according to the indictment.

The organization then recruited young men, primarily from Russia and Estonia, and sent them to the US to act as straw owners of the companies.

The fraudsters then indiscriminately began blanket billing Medicare for supply reimbursements, mostly urinary catheters, using the stolen credentials of 7,000 physicians and over 1 million Medicare recipients, feds allege.

Straw owners

Thousands of bills originated from G&I Ortho Supply in Gravesend, Brooklyn, and were sent on behalf of Medicare customers across the country.

The crime syndicate made $10.6 billion in fraudulent claims in total, according to prosecutors.

They were paid $941 million, which the gang allegedly promptly laundered through China, Israel, Pakistan, Singapore and Turkey.

While some of the hired patsies have been caught and prosecuted, a recently unsealed superseding indictment is short on details of who was running the scheme, beyond that they are believed to have operated from outside the United States.

Experts are convinced the scheme goes to the top of Russian society.

"These are big numbers. I don't see how you become a John Gotti in Russia without the government either giving you permission or controlling what you do," Jay Albanese, a criminology professor specializing in international crime rings at Virginia Commonwealth University, told The Post.

An earlier prosecution of two men who fronted businesses involved in the scheme shed more light on how it worked.

The straw owners' main job was collecting the Medicare reimbursements from the medical facilities — sent as physical checks through the mail — and then banking them.

Aleksandr Lis, a 26-year-old soccer-loving Estonian, was recruited by the gang and flew to New York, where he was put up in a Times Square hotel.

He lived there for nine months as nominal owner of Texas' Konaniah Medical Supplies and another Kentucky medical-supply business. Instructions on how to do his job were sent to him via text message, his lawyer Daniel Wachtell said.

The lonely, low-paid young money-runner received $17,000 for the nine months he was on the job, which seemed unextraordinary to the uneducated, former package delivery man who arrived speaking no English.

He had to file documents, collect money, and open an account, Wachtell said.

Text messages show he and another nominee-owner complained of loneliness and boredom while shacked up in New York and at one point suspected their jobs might not be what they thought.

'Dark network'

Prosecutors said more than $6 million in fraudulent funds passed through Lis' hands and he pleaded guilty in 2025 in the Eastern District of Kentucky to conspiracy to commit money laundering.

He has already been released from prison after getting sentenced to 28 months, mostly due to time served, and was deported back to Estonia upon release, his lawyers confirmed to The Post.

In court, Lis' attorneys argued he was a low-level operative swept up in the scam.

"Aleks regrets ever having come to this country for this job, and I'm very grateful that he's at home with his family now," Wachtell told The Post.

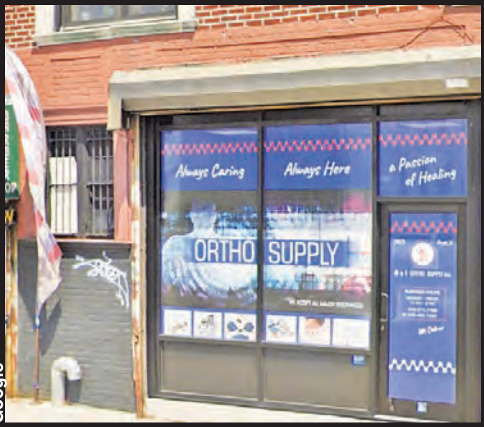
John Jay College criminology professor Serguei Cheloukhine,

using sham companies: feds

2 They used either companies that were created or took control of the scam, like G&I Ortho Supply (below right) in Gravesend, Brooklyn, or stole Medicare credentials that already existed, like those for Pretty In Pink Boutique (below left) in Nashville.

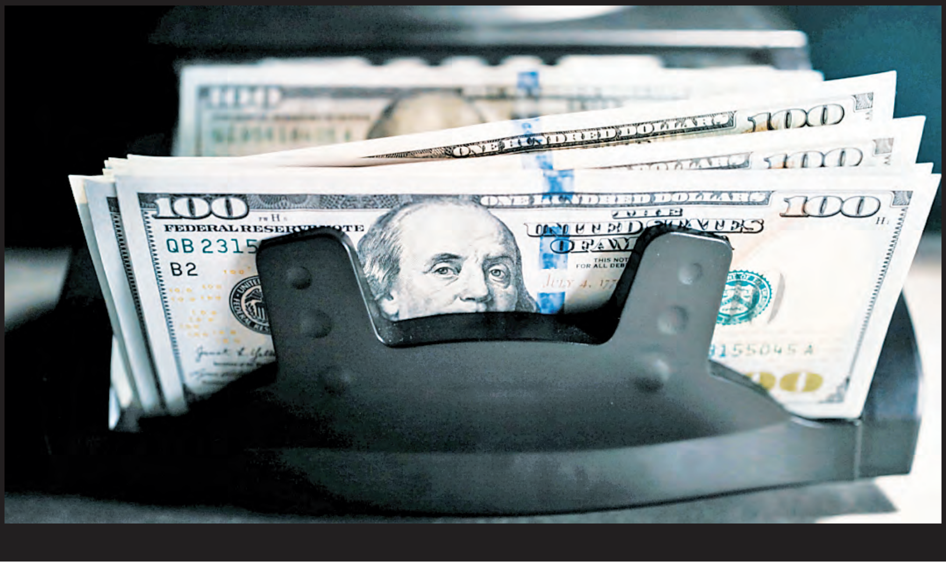
Pretty In Pink
Foundation
Honors Our
"Thrivers"

Instagram/@pipboutique



Google

3 Using the stolen credentials of 7,000 physicians and more than 1 million Medicare recipients, they billed Medicare for equipment and services, including $250 million for urinary catheters in just one year.



EPA/Shutterstock

4 A web of co-conspirators would collect the checks from Medicare and then send the money to foreign banks. Of the $10 billion they fraudulently billed Medicare, they collected nearly $1 billion.

who specializes in post-Soviet organized crime, isn't as convinced by the defense.

"You cannot pick up a guy off the street in Chechnya or Estonia and do this. That's not how it works. They have this dark network that they communicate with. There's passing on of references," Cheloukhine, a former Interpol cop, told The Post.

In January, Kazakh national Anuar Abdrakhmanov was charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering in a similar massive Medicare fraud scheme in Chicago federal court.

'Ordered to flee'

Prosecutors allege Abdrakhmanov — who arrived on a visitor's visa but was able to procure a New York state driver's license — took control of Priority One Medical Equipment, a Kentucky company, in April 2024 and used it to submit roughly $666 million in fraudulent claims for glucose monitors and catheters.

The company's Kentucky office was largely vacant; employees were paid $6,000 a month to forward mail and checks via the Telegram encrypted messaging app to an unidentified supervisor and ship payments to Chicago-area addresses, according to the indictment.

Abdrakhmanov allegedly wired proceeds overseas, including to Hong Kong accounts.

The case remains in pretrial proceedings and he has not yet entered a plea.

The indictment unsealed last week contained the names of 12 people charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, healthcare fraud and money laundering, all nationals of Russia, Czechia, Estonia and one US citizen, Jason Onoufrienko.

All are wanted by the feds, who noted the Russian gang had directed members in the US to flee across the Mexico border when law enforcement began making arrests.

On the other side of the scheme, affected citizens and businesses blame Medicare for not catching on sooner.

In April, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid alerted providers that 1.3 million recipients had been issued new Medicare ID numbers — presumably because their original ones were compromised in the Russian mob breach.

The scheme triggered more than 400,000 complaints from beneficiaries and providers who noticed fraudulent billing on their Medicare statements.

Just seven of the fraudulent medical supply companies accounted for a $1.9 billion spike in catheter reimbursements in 2023.

Around that time, local news outlets proliferated with stories of Medicare recipients getting eye-popping catheter bills — which can now be traced to the Russian outfit.

New Hampshire woman Laura Colquhoun told CBS New York she was billed $1,800 for catheters from the Brooklyn site, G&I Ortho Supply in Gravesend, one of the two New York addresses the gang operated out of, according to the indictment.

"So, all these charges were all fraudulent," Colquhoun told the outlet. "Medicare is just saying, 'OK, here, here's taxpayers' money,' and I think they have to be more concerned because it is from taxpayer money."

'Very angry people'

Nashville shop owner Pamela Ludwig was shocked to learn her Pretty In Pink Boutique — which sells mastectomy, compression and burn garments — shared the same name as a fraudulent site in Texas after hundreds of angry seniors began ringing up in 2023 to berate her for fraudulent $1,500 catheter bills on their Medicare claims statements.

"From every state across the country, very, very angry people; understandably so," Ludwig told The Post. "Then it turned into creditors, lawyers, agencies calling on behalf of the Treasury Department. It went on for a year and half, which was amazing. Medicare was aware of it, so why the heck were they still paying these claims?"

That fraud site, which had no connection to Ludwig's boutique, originally specialized in prostheses for breast-cancer survivors but was sold to the scammers in 2022 for $50,000.

"When you report change of ownership to Medicare that triggers a site survey and an audit," said Ludwig, who is also a Medicare provider.

"Did these Medicare site surveyors show up and the place was dark and the door was locked? Did they show up at all?"

Actress fesses to aiding fugitive tech CEO

$aving 'hide' of fraud lover

BEAU VOYAGE: Actress Lucinda Jane Weist Manera confessed to helping Bernhard Eugen Fritsch (below with Tyree Gibson) remain on the lam after he was convicted of defrauding his startup's investors.

DMI/The LIFE Picture Collection/Shutterstock

By ZAIN KHAN

A Hollywood actress known for roles in "Blown Away," "Predator 2" and "The Silencers" admitted to helping her fugitive tech CEO boyfriend dodge federal authorities after he fled the US rather than face prison for a multimillion-dollar fraud that duped investors in a celebrity-backed startup.

Lucinda Jane Weist Manera aka Lucy Weist, pleaded guilty Monday to one felony offense for helping convicted fraudster Bernhard Eugen Fritsch evade capture and funding his time on the run in Mexico.

Celeb scam

The actress faces up to five years in federal prison at her sentencing Oct. 5.

The 63-year-old knowingly assisted Fritsch after he was convicted by a federal jury in April 2025 of wire fraud, the Department of Justice says.

Fritsch, 64, the CEO of Santa Monica, Calif.-based StarClub Inc., was found guilty of orchestrating a scheme that swindled investors out of more than $20 million between 2014 and 2017

His celebrity-focused technology company marketed an app called StarSite, claiming it would allow celebrities to monetize their brand endorsements and social media posts.

To attract investors, Fritsch lied about the company earning millions in revenue and being on the verge of lucrative partnerships, with buyout offers from such major players as Disney.

Fritsch cultivated a celebrity image, hosting glitzy Hollywood events attended by stars including Tyrese Gibson, who hosted a private party for StarClub in 2014.

Singer Enrique Iglesias was also linked to the venture, while actresses Caitlin O'Connor and Elise Neal, rapper Trinidad James and model Khadija Neumann attended promotional events.

Instead of investing the money into the company, Fritsch spent millions renovating his Malibu mansion and buying luxury toys, including a McLaren supercar, a Rolls-Royce and a yacht.

Federal authorities have seized the yacht and both luxury cars.

After he was convicted, Fritsch was free on bond while awaiting a June 2025 hearing that could have resulted in his immediate detention before sentencing.

But he skipped court, drove to Mexico and disappeared.

According to Manera's plea agreement, helping him stay a step ahead of authorities and paid at least $7,475 to a third party whose Mexico home was being used as Fritsch's hideout.

Prosecutors said she searched online for information on how Fritsch could travel to his native Germany to avoid extradition.

Fritsch, who remains a fugitive, was sentenced in absentia in October to 15 years in federal prison and ordered to pay $26.8 million in restitution.

A federal court dismissed his appeal in April, saying he could challenge his conviction again if he turns himself in by Aug. 21.

Getty Images

I'd get off my barstool to take on Zo: Portnoy

Hizzoner Dave Portnoy?

Barstool Sports owner Dave Portnoy said he'd consider running for elected office over his frustrations with current Big Apple leadership, adding he'd "love to run against" Mayor Mamdani.

"I would love to run against him. If I were gonna run, it would be here," Portnoy said when asked if he'd consider a run against the city's democratic socialist mayor on "Jesse Watters Primetime" Monday night.

Portnoy said he previously thought he "would never get involved in politics," but that the threat of being ruled by "dummies" has him reconsidering his position.

"I spend a lot of my day losing my mind with what's happening, especially in New York," Portnoy said.

He also blasted the Democrat Party, criticizing the growing spate of lefty socialists who've won big in recent elections.

"What the Democrats have done is, they've let the fox into the henhouse. And now he's just running rampant and kicking them all out," Portnoy said in a veiled swing at Mamdani.

Three far-left Congressional candidates backed by the mayor won their primaries last Tuesday.

David DeTurris

'School harass' bill twist

The NYPD must now officially report to the City Council about how it prevents protesters from harassing people around K-12 schools — but not colleges, where most hateful anti-Israel rallies occur.

The council passed legislation Tuesday night requiring the report in response to Mayor Mamdani vetoing a bill in April that aimed to create buffer zones around educational institutions including colleges.

Mamdani said that bill would have restricted free-speech rights.

Proponents of the new law, passed with a veto-proof majority, hailed it as still an important step in protecting people.

But some critics said that while a move in the right direction, it doesn't go far enough.

"There hasn't been many protests near K-to-12 schools," a council source said. Still, it's "good to send a message" to prevent protesters from intimidating students and staffers, the source added.

The council's revised measure, sponsored by Democratic Councilwoman Elsie Encarnación of East Harlem, also applies to childcare centers but not to libraries or teaching hospitals. *Carl Campanile*

Cop fires on thugs

An off-duty NYPD cop opened fire on three alleged catalytic-converter thieves on a Manhattan street when she thought they were reaching for a weapon Tuesday, cops and sources said.

The 31-year-old cop, assigned to the Bronx's 40th Precinct, was about to head to work at 5:45 a.m. when a neighbor alerted her to the suspicious crew at West 148th Street and Broadway, the sources said.

While inside her own car, she spotted three men trying to steal a catalytic converter. They spotted her-gunfire ensued, and The suspects fled. *Joe Marino and Amanda Woods*

‘Elle’ of a good look, Lexi!

Hot young rising star Lexi Minetree wows ’em with hot pink in London Tuesday at the UK screening of “Elle.” The 25-year-old is taking the prequel reins of the “Legally Blonde” franchise in the signature hue of Reese Witherspoon’s “Elle Woods,” in the series dropping on Prime Video.

Getty Images

Lawler rage at Raskin

Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY) blasted Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) as an “absolute disgrace” as the two got into a shouting match Tuesday during a heated congressional hearing on the victims of sanctuary city policies.

Lawler erupted after being interrupted multiple times by Democrats as he laid out the details leading up to the heinous murder of New York teenager Sheridan Gorman in Chicago.

The Republican congressman blamed the Biden administration’s open border policies and failure to deport the Loyola University student’s accused killer, an illegal migrant from Venezuela.

“You may not want to hear the details. It may be an inconvenience to you, but the details matter,” Lawler said calmly after Rep. Pramilia Jayapal took issue with the New York pol making a lengthy statement rather than quickly introducing Gorman’s grieving mother. *Victor Nava*

HOLY TIE TO JUNK FOODS

Ungodly cravings

By RACHEL SACKS

Thank you, cheese-us.

Multiple studies have found that consuming ultra-processed foods like chips, ice cream and pizza can increase the risk of multiple health conditions like type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression and other chronic diseases.

But now you can’t blame the devil for pushing you to make unhealthy junk-food choices.

Instead, a new study published in Psychology & Marketing suggests that spiritual cues create a belief in divine healing — which lowers self-control in making healthy eating choices.

While almost 40% of Americans pray to God for health improvements or cures for diseases, even subtle reminders of religion or spirituality can influence food choices — for the worse.

The phenomenon is referred to as “God salience,” or a momentary activation of thoughts related to God brought on by environmental cues.

To understand how people justified eating ultra-processed food, researchers looked at compensatory control theory, in which people seek external sources of order — like God — when they face physical vulnerability (say, a snack craving) or internal psychological stress.

The researchers had participants do different activities.

They read religious texts or neutral sentences, listened to religious or secular music, or wrote about God or their day.

Then, participants had to choose between non-processed or highly processed foods.

Those filled with divine light, so to speak, were more likely and willing to also be filled with divinely delicious junk food.

Wishful thinking

The findings confirmed that religious reminders shaped preferences for junk food, while healthy foods needed less divine protection in queso emergency.

Spiritual or religious people often rely on non-medical mechanisms when facing illness, like prayer, the researchers found.

A reminder of a higher power could lead some to be less worried about the health risks of certain foods or believe that a deity will intervene in any negative health issues.

The researchers noted their findings have real-world implications, blending nutritional education with spiritual teachings to combat obesity or the use of secular music in grocery stores to subconsciously promote healthier choices.

Even seemingly healthy options — like peanut butter — made unhealthy with the addition of cookie dough and chocolate chips, were chosen after participants listened to a religious sermon.

So next time you’re seeking peace in a bag of chips or praying for a calorie-free miracle, you might really need a “come to Jesus” moment about the realities of what junk food can do to your health.

Africa CDC financial plea in Ebola war

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday called for $18 million in urgent funding to support trials of experimental Ebola treatments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, warning that delays could jeopardize efforts to contain the outbreak.

The appeal comes as clinical trials evaluating potential therapies are due to begin this week in Bunia, capital of Ituri province, where the first cases involving the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola were confirmed. *Reuters*

Teen titans get schooled

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WHO needs a childhood when you can have preferred stock?

Page Six hears that Alpha School — the "AI-powered" school that, as we've reported, runs a summer camp featuring omakase classes and "life skills" like building Trojan horses — has launched a second school where students are guaranteed to graduate with a million-dollar business.

And all the Mini Musks have to do is build their business daily "until dark."

The original Alpha — which counts hedgie legend **Bill Ackman** among its supporters — figures that its "mastery-based, AI driven approach allows students to crush their academics" in hours, with the rest of the day focused on "team-based workshops" and fostering qualities such as "grit."

Its new spinoff, Founders School, uses the "extra" time freed up by the AI-optimized curriculum to help kids build a business. And if it doesn't hit a $1 million valuation by graduation, the school says it'll refund your tuition — which runs you $150,000 a year.

"Alpha School proved that AI can compress a full day of academics into three hours while consistently outperforming traditional schools on standardized tests," its website claims. "Founders School adds 1,000+ hours per year of hands-on entrepreneurial experience on top."

The New York City high school promises pupils will "learn to think, sell, and ship, harnessing AI to futureproof [their] skills and career."

The school says that by the end of the first year, students will have a business worth more than $50,000, and by sophomore year they'll be ready to hire their first staff members. By the end of 10th grade, they say the company will run without its "founder."

The school says kids will be done with classes by 11 a.m., and that — somewhat ominously — they can work on their companies "until dark." Baby burnout!

We previously reported on Alpha's $40,500 summer camp where "every afternoon opens up into hands-on workshops where kids build, move, pitch, create, and do things that seem impossible."

Missed her lines

COCAINE? On a rock tour?! **Sara Bareilles** says she was flabbergasted to see coke for the first time while on tour with Maroon 5. The "Brave" singer told Rolling Stone that she got to know the band while attending UCLA, and they've since toured together several times. "Oh, my God, it was crazy. I saw cocaine for the first time," said the two-time Grammy winner, who said she saw the drug in a "bathroom at a party." (She said that it didn't belong "to the band.") "This was just one of those things where we're out," said Bareilles. "And I was like, 'Oh, my God, that's cocaine!' Couldn't believe it." The singer said that the band "took me under their wing." "They shared everything they had," she said. We assume she doesn't mean the blow.

Shades of green

AFTER first reporting that **Dakota Johnson** had listed her 3,210-square-foot historic Hollywood Hills home for $6 million, we have now learned that the "50 Shades of Grey" actress (above) sold it for just below asking and that the deal officially closed Monday. Situated above the Chateau Marmont on Marmont Avenue, the three-bedroom, three-bath home — built by Carl Maston in 1947 — was on the market for just six days. Johnson bought the place in 2016 for $3.55 million.

Soak it in! Dua Lipa is having tubs of fun being a newlywed, blissing out on her Italian honeymoon with her groom, Callum Turner.

dualipa/Instagram

Tay's ex seeks Redeemer status in Brazil

TAYLOR Swift's ex-boyfriend is attempting to top her July Fourth weekend wedding in a big way. Swift is leasing Madison Square Garden for her nuptials to Kansas City Chiefs tight end **Travis Kelce** — an event sources claim will be "bigger than the Met Gala." Not to be outdone, **Conor Kennedy**, 31, is marrying Brazilian pop star **Giulia Marinho**, 26, with their nuptials set to take place against the backdrop of her country's most iconic landmark, the nearly 100-foot Christ the Redeemer statue that stands above Rio de Janeiro, reports PageSix.com's **Isabel Vincent**. "One of the first things I said [to Conor was], 'I love you, but I'm not getting married in Massachusetts,'" Marinho said in an interview with Brazil's Gshow magazine last month. The couple, who already had a small civil ceremony in LA in March, is heading to the bride's hometown for a three-day extravaganza in October that will include a lavish "blessing" dinner at the statue on Corcovado mountain. Hundreds of guests from around the world are scheduled to converge on the beachfront city, according to Marinho, who is known professionally as Giulia Be. Kennedy, the son of Health and Human Services Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, dated Swift for a few months in 2012, when she was 22 and he was 18.

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Dragged queen

QUEEN **Camilla** ignited anger for posting an Instagram picture with **J.K. Rowling** — given the timing and the author's controversial views on trans women. The wife of King **Charles** shared a picture of herself and the "Harry Potter" author at a palace in Scotland, with the caption noting their "shared passion for books" and a "deep commitment" to children reading. Critics took to the comments section to call out the seeming support of Rowling during Pride Month. One Instagram user even called the royal "deplorable." In October 2023, Rowling shared a photo on social media reading, "Repeat after us: Trans women are women," with the caption, "No."

Play 'Lil' defense

LILY Allen defended her "West End Girl" tour after a fan claimed they felt "ripped off." The unsatisfied customer posted, "No support act. Arrived on stage at 9:10pm. All wrapped up by 10pm. Not one word to the audience," and said the ticket cost 86 pounds. The singer (above) refuted each claim, saying "there is a support act," that she started late because she got a run in her tights, and "the show is just over an hour as it's just the album in its entirety." ("West End Girl," released months after her split from **David Harbour**, is 45 minutes long.) Allen continued, "It's my artistic choice not to talk to the audience, the fourth wall helps with the storytelling. Most people find it to be effective."

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Pregnant **Anne Hathaway** was sightseeing for two yesterday in FiDi.

Elder Ordonez/INSTARimages

Page Six®

Port’s in a storm

DAVE Portnoy alleged **Alex Cooper** and **Sofia Franklyn** planned to break their Barstool contracts with “fake” sexual harassment claims. In his new memoir, “Cancel Me If You Can,” the Barstool Sports founder alleged the women had a change of heart after meeting with YouTube star **Logan Paul** in April 2019. Portnoy said the women “wanted a million dollars a year, the right to sell their own ads, ownership over the intellectual property of Call Her Daddy, and 90 percent of their merch sales,” per the Daily Mail. Portnoy said he proposed “the most generous offer in Barstool history.” He claimed Cooper then called him and said, “‘I love the deal you proposed . . . but Sofia is never going to take it.’” He alleged, “Alex claimed to me that they had a plan to say they were both sexually harassed at Barstool. That was it. That was their game plan . . . in the event that I did not relinquish their IP to them.” Page Six did not hear back from reps for Paul, Cooper or Franklyn.

Raymond Hall/GC Images

NYC is even hotter after **Nina Dobrev** swung by ABC’s “Live With Kelly and Mark.”

Davis dreamed of one last song

INTREPID music legend Clive Davis, 94, was on his way to see a band he’d signed in 1980 when he was instead rushed to the hospital weeks before he died. One friend told us that a month before his death, the former Columbia Records president was still “always out, seven nights a week. The guy went out the way he should have. He was on the way to an Air Supply concert.” Another source told Page Six Hollywood that Davis’ final night out was on May 29 with famed Post theater columnist and AM radio host **Michael Riedel**, who had arranged for him to reunite with the Aussie act in New Jersey. But on the way to the show, Davis’ beloved partner **Greg Schriefer** “got a call from Clive’s doctor. He’d gotten back a test and said, ‘I think you need to get him to hospital,’” we hear. That’s when Riedel “jumped out of the car outside the Holland Tunnel” in Jersey, and Davis and Schriefer headed back to Manhattan. Riedel confirmed to us, “Clive was so looking forward to seeing the guys, and it was going to be a really lovely reunion.” Davis, who passed away June 22, was remembered at Manhattan’s Central Synagogue on Monday by famous friends, including **Bruce Springsteen**, **Stevie Wonder**, **Alicia Keys**, **Dionne Warwick**, **Barry Manilow**, **Ja Rule**, **Nancy Pelosi** and **Adrien Brody**.

Ruby chipped in pool mishap

RUBY Rose was rushed to the hospital after breaking her ribs during a pool accident at home. “RIP to my ribs, and to the rest of my summer,” the actress, 40, captioned a clip of the frightening incident Monday. In the footage, the “Orange Is the New Black” star can be seen holding a hose as she misses the edge of her pool, slams into a wall and lands in the water. “And now I have to breathe into a machine lol. Landed perfectly on the right side of my ribs. Breaking the bottom two,” she wrote.

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New Air Force One 1st flight

President Trump will take his new Air Force One for its first flight Wednesday when he heads to North Dakota to open the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

The trip is part of the nation's 250th birthday celebrations. The president will also take a train ride, boarding the BNSF Freedom 250 Train as part of the journey to the library site.

A ceremonial Rough Riders Troop will accompany the presidential motorcade to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. The group on horseback will evoke the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt and the volunteer cavalry regiment that helped define his public image, a White House official told The Post.

The day of planes, trains and automobiles begins with the presidential aircraft, a brand new addition to the Air Force fleet.

The president formally introduced the 747 jet — a gift from Qatar — last week, showing off its sleek red, white, blue and gold design. He described it as a "flying White House at a level of luxury that nobody's ever seen before."

"President Trump will make history twice in one day: boarding the new Air Force One for its maiden flight and traveling to the great State of North Dakota to dedicate the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library," White House spokesperson Olivia Wales told The Post.

The plane, valued at $400 million, will serve as a "bridge" aircraft, to be used between the older Boeing 747s, which have been in use for more than 20 years.

Emily Goodin

$1B CRYPTO BOOST

By STEVEN NELSON
and EMILY GOODIN

Getty

FAMILY FORTUNE: President Trump and sons Eric (left) and Don Jr. marketed their $Trump meme coin.

Trumps mine devotees' gold

WASHINGTON — President Trump reported a financial windfall in annual disclosure documents, including more than $1 billion in cryptocurrency income and tens of millions from new foreign real estate deals since re-entering the White House.

Trump reaped a staggering $635 million from sales of his free-floating $Trump meme coin — launched three days before he took office last January — via his company CIC Digital LLC, according to his 2025 disclosures released Tuesday.

The documents list more than $236 million in additional income from selling the WLFI cryptocurrency tokens through World Liberty Financial, the company founded by Trump, special envoy Steve Witkoff and their sons in 2024.

The files list $65.6 million from a sale of equity in World Liberty — a likely reference to the reported sale of part of the company last January to companies associated with United Arab Emirates national security adviser Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

Trump reported a further $205 million in proceeds from stablecoin investments, including sales of holdings in Stablecoin Holdco, which is associated with World Liberty and its issuance of the USD1 stablecoin.

Bible windfall

The billionaire licensing and real estate entrepreneur reported a wide range of additional income sources, including $4.7 million from Trump Watches royalties and even $208,486 in sales of a patriotic version of the Bible.

Trump, 80, is estimated by Forbes to be worth about $6 billion — up from $2.3 billion in 2024, indicating he dramatically increased his personal wealth while in the White House.

Trump's 927-page disclosure included a sprawling list of his stock holdings, which the White House says financial firms manage.

It also lists major foreign revenue from licensing fees on hotel and golf course projects, some of which weren't listed on last year's file, including $5.25 million from a forthcoming golf club in Doha, Qatar, as part of a deal signed last April, as well as $5 million from a Bucharest Trump Tower project in Romania announced last July.

Other major foreign revenue streams included nearly $8.5 million in licensing fee income from four recently announced Indian projects — in Delhi, Gurgaon, Hyderabad and Noida — and $5 million from a resort in Vietnam that local officials approved last year.

About $13 million in licensing and management fees are reported from Dubai, where Trump is building an 80-story skyscraper unveiled last April after he returned to office.

Another $10 million flowed to Trump from Abu Dhabi licensing fees and $9.2 million from Saudi Arabia, where luxury projects in Riyadh and Jeddah are currently under construction.

Other well-known real estate holdings contributed to Trump's income last year, including $77.5 million from his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Fla., and $37.6 million from his golf club in Bedminster, NJ.

He earned another $31.3 million from his Turnberry, Scotland, hotel and golf course, $38.5 million from his hotel in Chicago, $31.6 million from his golf course in Jupiter, Fla., nearly $25 million from his course outside DC and $25 million from condo and hotel sales in Las Vegas.

The sprawling filing also lists major income from legal settlements against companies he accused of unfair treatment, including $22 million from Google and YouTube's parent company, $24.5 million from Meta, $16 million from CBS, $16 million from ABC and $8 million from X.

Trump said he donated the settlement funds, with the exception of the X amount, to either his presidential library or the Trust for the National Mall.

First lady Melania Trump revealed significant earnings of her own totaling about $12 million.

In the spouses section of the federal document, Melania listed $10.7 million in income from her Amazon deal for her self-titled documentary movie.

She also reported $6 million in proceeds from NFTs and collectibles and an additional $521,000 in proceeds from her memoir.

The first lady also listed $1 million in a US bank account and $1 million in a bank in her native Slovenia.

Amazon reportedly paid Melania Trump's production company $28 million as part of an overall $40 million licensing deal for the documentary about her life. The portion listed on the disclosure form is her personal income.

LI sick 'sister-in-law slay'

A Long Island music teacher sexually assaulted and strangled his sister-in-law — whom he'd reportedly been lusting over for nearly a decade — while his wife was away on a bachelorette trip, according to police and prosecutors.

Joseph Horner, 27, killed Victoria Castle, his wife's 25-year-old sister, at their shared North Oak Street home in North Massapequa and then called the cops on himself around 8:45 a.m. Monday, the Nassau County Police Department said.

Horner — a music teacher in the Oceanside School District — lived in the upstairs apartment of the multifamily house with his wife, and Castle lived in the ground-floor unit, according to the Nassau County District Attorney's Office.

After the attack, Horner called 911 and waited for cops to show up, then immediately confessed, prosecutors said. *Brandon Cruz and David DeTurris*

Hit-run death of granny, 93

A 93-year-old Bronx woman walking to get food for a needy neighborhood boy was killed by a motorcycle in a hit-and-run crash Monday, cops said.

Retired nurse Leonara Campbell, a great-grandmother of nine, was struck and sent flying by a biker who ran her over and chillingly stared at the carnage before speeding off on White Plains Road near East 225th Street in Olinville around 2:30 p.m., cops and relatives said.

The strong-willed matriarch had been on her way to pick up medication, candy for the neighborhood kids — and lunch for a young boy who'd asked her for food, her family told The Post on Tuesday.

Campbell, who lived three blocks from the scene, "was always a caring person, always looking out for the kids, always willing to give treats," said grandson Rolando Barrett, 40. *Reuven Fenton and Amanda Woods*

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A CREATIVE FREEDOM

‘Lifesaving’ invention

American Dreamers

Through July 4, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, is featuring US citizens explaining what the American Dream means to them in 2026 — including Freddie Figgers. At the age of 16, Figgers founded Figgers Communications, a telecom company that provides wireless service to more than 280 million people nationwide. He is also the founder of the Figgers Foundation, which has donated nearly $8 million worth of resources and programming to more than 27,000 families.

I was born in Quincy, Fla.

I was abandoned at birth. The woman that birthed me, she threw me away. And so I was adopted by a 68-year-old man and a 54-year-old woman who took me and raised me as their own.

My father started developing dementia — Alzheimer’s — and, at the age of 13, I dropped out of school because this same man who took me and raised me, gave me his last name, I wasn’t going to allow him to go into a nursing facility.

FREDDIE FIGGERS
Entrepreneur as teen.

Long story short, my father just wandered off.

He would leave in the mornings — no shirt and no pants, but he’d always have his shoes on.

So, being a little tinkerer, running around the house, taking apart alarm clocks, VCRs and television components, I created a chip set and put it into the sole of his shoe.

I integrated that with a WAN-card, a 3G cellular signal, a microphone and a speaker. I integrated an API to my Windows computer and had an application sync with Garmin [GPS]. So, I could press a button and say, “Hey, Daddy, where are you?”

And I could literally see the radius of where he was located. I would hop in his Lincoln Town Car and go pick him up.

The same way he saved my life, I was gonna save his life.

The American dream, to me, is free enterprise — having the freedom to create, having the freedom to invent and to be yourself, making a difference in the lives of others and just living out your full potential without limitations.

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. For more information, visit mcaad.org.

‘Uncut’ jeweler ruined my life: ex

A Diamond District jeweler to the stars who appeared in an Adam Sandler flick wielded his massive social-media base to blackball his ex, calling her a “stupid monkey-brained bitch,” a shocking lawsuit claims.

Maksud Agadjani — the 38-year-old founder and CEO of TraxNYC who rose to fame after appearing in the 2019 Sandler film “Uncut Gems” — became unhinged when former employee and onetime girlfriend Melisa Kulla, 27, rejected his marriage proposal two years after they broke up, according to Kulla’s federal lawsuit.

The Manhattan jeweler “responded with an avalanche of vulgar and threatening text messages” while ripping Kulla as a “disgusting f--ked up bitch” and a “stupid monkey-brained bitch,” the suit alleged.

Agadjani, whose shop boasts celeb clients including Snoop Dogg, Cardi B, Mr. Beast, Busta Rhymes and Mark Wahlberg, did not respond to a Post request for comment. *Peter Senzamici*

Colo. socialist in Dem upset

Insurgent socialist candidate Melat Kiros defeated longtime Rep. Diana DeGette Tuesday in Colorado’s 1st District House primary, marking the latest blow to the establishment wing of the Democratic Party.

Kiros was up over the incumbent by 49.3-43.5%, when AP called the race late Tuesday.

Kiros’ win in the solidly blue district follows a string of victories by socialist and far-left candidates over incumbent and establishment-backed Democrats in New York in June.

Victor Nava

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TECH PROMISES

Biohackers aim for immortality — or just profit

RIKKI SCHLOTT

YOU are slowly dying in so many subtle, little ways that you might not even notice.

That is, until you enter a biohacking expo, where thousands who are interested in "hacking" their biology in the name of longevity congregate to see the latest in time-defying technology.

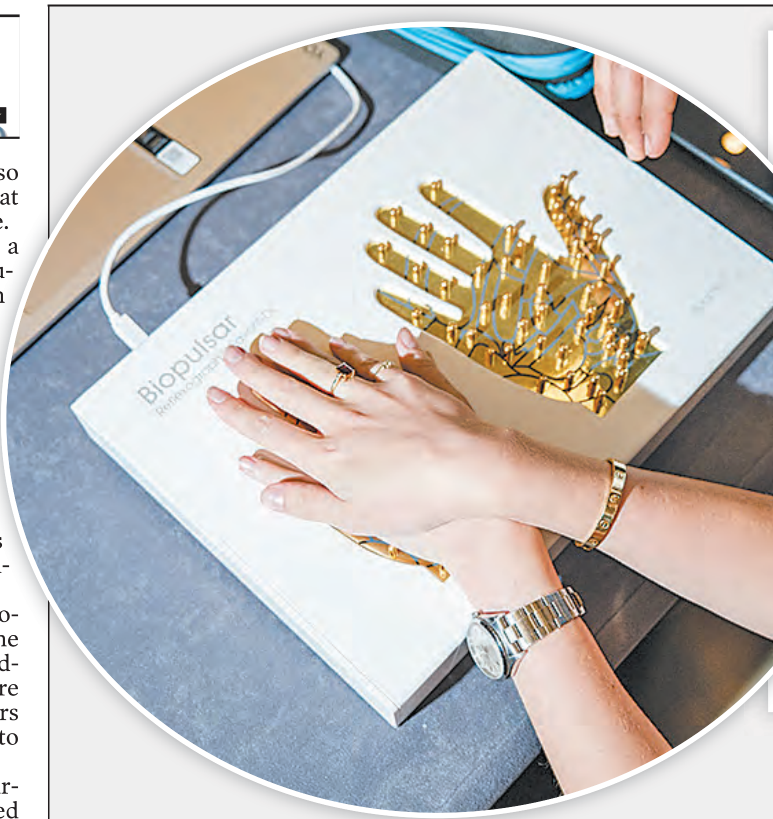
A man behind one booth will warn you that your nervous system is out of sync with your electrical system. A woman behind another will inform you that your blood needs to be rejuvenated via Wi-Fi-radiation exposure.

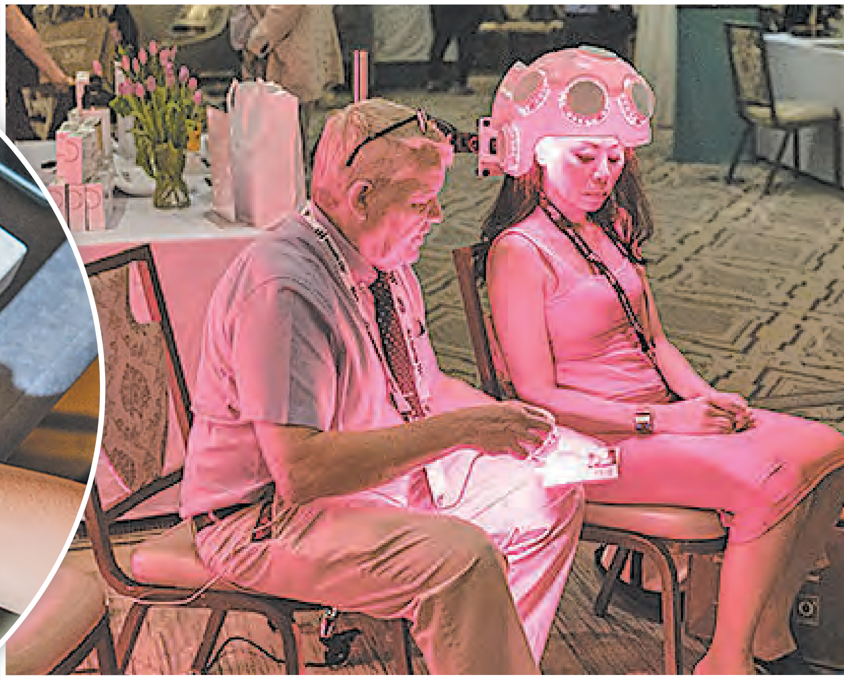
That was my experience at Biohackers World Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Midtown over the weekend, where entrepreneurs, holistic doctors and casual hobbyists convened to apparently extend human life.

Within minutes of my own arrival, a friendly middle-aged woman named Tara running a booth in the conference's expo hall had already sprayed a substance into my mouth that promised to open up my respiratory system.

Before I even realized it, she had raised a tiny spoonful of purple powder to my nostril, and — for some reason — I followed her commands as she told me to inhale. The "nasal snuff," she said, was a "brain activation product" full of "mitochondrial peptides."

Her clients at MitoZen — usually people who want to "take their health into their own hands, to feel empowered, to not feel like a victim of Western medicine" — say it's great for public speaking or an important phone call.





Increased Liver
Functioning

INSPECTING GADGETS: The Biohackers World Conference in Midtown over the weekend featured everything from red-light therapy helmets (top) to a $9,999 palm scanner with a gold sensor that supposedly detects "blockages" in the body.

Uh oh-zone

With my instant-delivery neuro-enhancement up my nose, I was ready to head out onto the exposition floor to learn how, apparently, to outsmart my own biology.

I was drawn to Kera Lynn, a pretty yoga coach covered in tribal-style tattoos, who was standing next to a massive ceramic contraption in the corner of the room that looked like a cross between a bathtub and a cocoon.

For between $18,000 and $29,000, AuraO3 promised to repair your body on a cellular level via ozone therapy, an alternative medical practice that immerses the body in ozone gas and apparently increases "tissue oxygenation," supports "cellular detoxification" and promotes "immune modulation."

Lynn, who is pursuing an alternative medicine bachelor's degree, told me her product, which she rolled out in January, is in 13 homes across multiple countries, and has helped with "chronic pain and cancers."

The AuraO3 pod, she told me, is good for detoxing from "parasites, COVID vaccines, [and] metals." It's also helpful for Lyme disease, re-regulating blood sugar, rebalancing hormones, and can be, she claims, an alternative to antibiotics.

The 31-year-old from California even "supported a woman through leukemia," she said, with the patient in remission after three months.

There's just one small problem.

"Ozone is a toxic gas with no known useful medical application," according to the FDA's Code of Federal Regulations.

"In order for ozone to be effective as a germicide, it must be present in a concentration far greater than that which can be safely tolerated by man and animals."

I watched some people try out the pod, but abstained myself, wandering around a bit to mingle with attendees, who paid anything from $399 for a standard ticket to $989 for VIP status.

'A rabbit hole'

Philip Santoro is a local school psychologist and hobbyist biohacker. When I met him, he'd just left a booth selling kits that test your microbiome via a stool sample and was disappointed their credit card machine had been down.

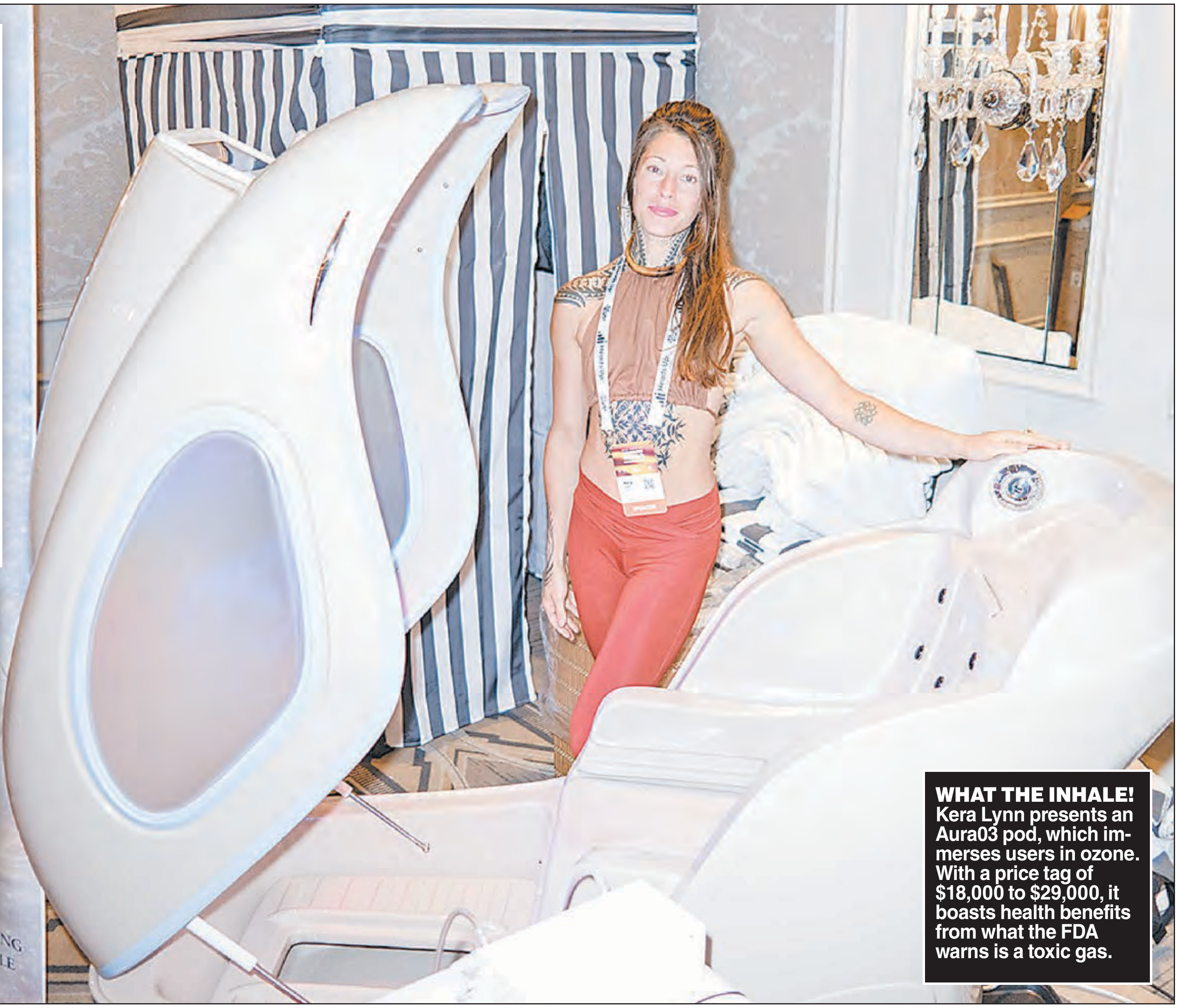
Though it's his first biohacking conference, Santoro has learned a lot about the movement from the internet. He'd already invested in products for his home, including a red light panel, a vagus nerve stimulator and a magnetic coil, which promises to "downshift your nervous system" via pulsed electromagnetic field therapy.

The 56-year-old has also paid for microplastic testing and full- body scans, coming to a roughly $7,000 investment in his longevity.

"It's like a rabbit hole," he told me. "Once you hear something that interests you . . . then you start getting information on other things, and then you're like, OK, if you're helping your mitochondria then there's something else you can do, and then you start looking."

I continued to browse through an endless sea of supplements and contraptions: Red light therapy helmets, vibrating pads that promise an hour's worth of exercise in

E-LIXIR OF LIFE



WHAT THE INHALE! Kera Lynn presents an Aura03 pod, which immerses users in ozone. With a price tag of $18,000 to $29,000, it boasts health benefits from what the FDA warns is a toxic gas.

Stephen Yang for NY Post

10 minutes, even a booth for biohacking your pet — "because well-being isn't just a human goal."

During my stroll, I stumbled upon Randy Thomas, 44, who came with a friend from New Jersey to check out the conference. He remained skeptical.

"Some people get into [biohacking] to make money and rip people off," he told me. "I'm here to see what works and what's snake oil salesman stuff."

Its 'watt' in gold

Next up, I stopped at a booth selling a $9,999 palm scanner, which measures the energy flow in each of the body's chakras with 24-karat gold sensors. Dr. Nima Farshid was manning the booth. This technology, he told me, could detect problems in the organ systems six months before they show up in blood work.

Farshid, 47, explained that our bodies have an electrical system, alongside our nervous system, and that "blockages" can go under the radar and impact various systems in the body.

"See how you're standing right now," he said, gesturing to my hips. I was holding more weight on one foot than the other. "You have a blockage in your hips. So now you're holding a lot of energy in your hips. If that maintains like that, it can start to damage your sexual systems."

He helped me place my hand on his machine, which would tell me how electricity is moving through just about every part of my body — from the brain to the small intestine and the feet to the eyes.

I asked if his test was sort of like an EKG. It was the only electric measurement I was familiar with in medicine.

"No, you went too far. You went medical on me," he said. "EKG is like, yeah, that's like measuring the rhythms of the heart. I'm just talking about electricity."

My results started coming in on a computer screen. An ethereal multicolored cloud spread over da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man," which I was told represented the amount of energy flow in various regions of my body.

The gray throughout, Farshid said, was an indication that some of my body parts were sub-optimally electrified. While my large intestine indicated a positive "blue," my rectum was apparently offline(!). My brain also appeared to be largely unplugged from my body's grid. Maybe it was the nasal snuff from earlier.

Which, doctor?

Later I met Tsun Law, a medical doctor in Fort Lauderdale. He was there on behalf of his clients, he said, as they keep coming in asking questions about various biohacking methods, like peptides and stem cell therapy.

"I'm here trying to get educated a little bit, because patients are coming in asking a lot of questions about [biohacking]," Law, 42, told me. "That's kind of what everyone is asking for now, and I really don't know what to tell them."

In his opinion, things like red light therapy are promising, while he would recommend against ozone therapy. I asked him what he thought of people without traditional medical backgrounds developing and selling products to consumers.

"That's OK, because a lot of times, in the medical world, some of the big breakthroughs that we've had actually came from non-physicians and people thinking outside of the box that leads us to do our research," he said.

I thought about his patients — regular people encountering the biohacking world online — who are probably seeing all sorts of ads for contraptions and gizmos, powders and supplements. And I worried that some might be falling victim to the fantasy of agelessness.

On one hand, the conference catered to wealthy attendees. A yacht rental company was advertising a trip on the Red Sea, which they'd spun a "biohacking" angle onto by offering IV drips onboard. The outing cost an undisclosed, presumably large price.

But I didn't get the sense everyone was the stereotypical gazillionaire, jetting around in yachts and obsessed with maxxing their own mortality. Most felt like regular people who believe these entrepreneurs might be able to let them in on a scientific secret.

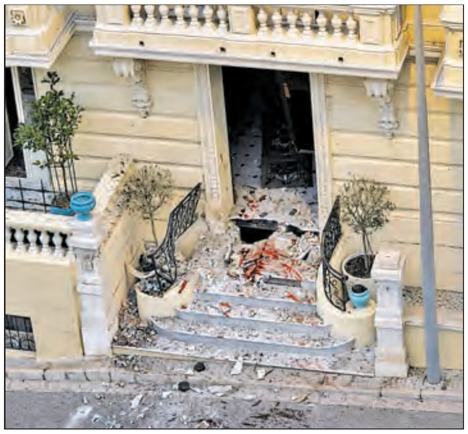
That suspicion was confirmed by a booth advertising buy-now-pay-later plans for biohacking businesses like medical spas. Their presence was an indication that some people aren't just throwing money at speculative remedies, but going into debt over the promise of longevity.

I'm not a medical expert, so I'm not one to say whether the health of your reproductive system is detectable through the palm of your hand, or if you need Wi-Fi radiation delivered through your bloodstream.

But what I can say for sure after my day at Biohackers World is that it isn't just for vain billionaires. It's also for vulnerable people desperate to feel as though they're in control of their own destinies and willing to pay the prices, whether the remedies have been proven or not.

Monaco bomb shock

Legs of Ukraine mogul's pal severed



ON THE RUN: Police are hunting this man who left a bomb outside of a Monaco building (bottom, right) Monday. Ukrainian tycoon Vadym Yermolaiev (above right) and two others were wounded in the blast.

@Lucas_Mussio/X; vadymiermolaiev.info

By RONNY REYES

A woman who was with a sanctioned Ukrainian oligarch lost her legs in the explosion of a makeshift bomb in Monaco, according to reports Tuesday. The device also injured the tycoon and the woman's teen son.

The woman, who has not been publicly identified by officials, was with her 13-year-old son and Vadym Yermolaiev on Monday night when the bomb went off at the entrance of their building, Ukrainian and British media reported.

While initial reports suggest the woman was Yermolaiev's wife, Anna Yermolaiev told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspline that it was not her.

"We are currently in a state of severe stress and are actively cooperating with the investigation and law-enforcement agencies," Anna said, declining to provide more details.

The boy does not appear to be one of Anna's children, the oldest of whom is 17.

It remains unclear what Yermolaiev's relationship is with the woman and boy, but officials said the three were "apparently returning home" together.

A manhunt continues for the bomber, who is seen on video leaving the parcel bomb at the entrance, with Monaco prosecutor Stephane Thibault saying the man ran across the border into France.

"In coordination with the French authorities, we are pursuing efforts to identify and apprehend him," Thibault told reporters. "I hope that will happen quickly, given the resources we are deploying."

He said the blast was being investigated as "attempted murder," but was not being considered a "terrorist" act.

Yermolaiev is a multimillionaire living in Monaco who was sanctioned by Kyiv in December 2023, reportedly because of his alcohol business activity in Russian-occupied Crimea, France24 reported.

Yermolaiev was among the wealthiest tycoons in Ukraine who led in the fields of commercial real estate, manufacturing and agriculture. He told Forbes Ukraine that he renounced his Ukrainian citizenship and became a citizen of Cyprus in 2017.

Son in trouble, too

Yermolaiev's eldest son, Artur, was arrested in Cyprus last year and accused of organizing large-scale fraudulent call centers targeting Europeans, according to the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper.

While Thibault declined to identify the victims of Monday's bombing, he noted the injured man had lived in Monaco since 2021.

While a motive is not known, Monaco's Minister of State Christophe Mirmand described it as a "deliberate explosion," with the injured woman in critical condition at a Nice, France, hospital.

Mirmand noted that the suspect had walked around the area several times while waiting for the victims to arrive before detonating the bomb.

"This is the first time in history, to my knowledge, that such an act has taken place in the principality," Mirmand told Agence France-Presse. Monaco is renowned as a haven for the rich and famous, with only a fifth of its 38,000 residents citizens of the principality. *With Wires*

Tragic NY slay accident, then 'suicide by guilt'

An upstate New York boy accidentally fatally shot his best friend before taking his own life out of guilt — with their heartbroken families announcing they plan to bury the "inseparable" pair together.

Damarion Jones, 16, tragically gunned down Jonah Tanner, 13, last Wednesday night, Syracuse.com reported. Distraught over the unintentional shooting, he turned the 9mm handgun on himself, the outlet reported, according to Onondaga County prosecutors.

Jones died of self-inflicted injuries, and Tanner was rushed to the hospital in critical condition but was later declared brain dead, CNYCentral reported.

Further details about how the shooting unfolded or how the teens got the gun have not yet been released.

An online fundraiser for Tanner's funeral expenses described the pals as "inseparable."

"Their friendship brought so much joy and love to our lives, and their bond was truly special," the GoFundMe statement said.

"Tragically, we lost both boys on the same night, and the pain is overwhelming. It feels impossible to imagine life without them, and the grief has touched everyone who knew them." *Zoe Hussain*

Slain ma 'knew killers'

The vicious, broad-daylight slaying of a Texas mother of five was far from a random act of violence, cops have revealed.

Instead, the three young women accused of killing Caroline "Caro" Peña — smiling sisters Kitty Mia Diaz, 21, and Amaya Cookie Diaz, 19, and their pal, Kyandra Renee Faz, 21 — knew the 32-year-old victim, Del Rio Police Chief Frank Ramirez told TMZ.

All three women were hit with first-degree murder charges after police say Amaya Diaz repeatedly stabbed Peña in the back during a heated confrontation Thursday afternoon.

Police have not said why the women were fighting.

Faz told police Peña had "arrived at her residence looking to start a fight," according to a criminal complaint obtained by The Post.

Surveillance footage later obtained by investigators showed Peña driving up to Faz's house, where the Diaz sisters arrived shortly thereafter.

Video then shows Amaya Diaz striking Peña in the back, where blood begins soaking her shirt, according to the complaint. Kitty Diaz and Faz then allegedly jumped in and beat Peña. The trio were being held on bond. *Georgia Worrell*

'Psycho' townhouse

Neighbors of the Philadelphia house of horrors tied to the disappearance of at least two women describe the owner as a "psycho" who helped turn the once-quaint townhouse into an eyesore with boarded up windows, bars on the doors and security cameras.

The father of current owner Eugene Horsch, 44, was even more sinister. R.C. Horsch, who died last year, was a photographer whose work deviated into porn.

Convicted drug felon Eugene gave off "psycho" vibes, a neighbor said, and is now being eyed in the missing women's disappearance. *Reuven Fenton*

ALISON WINTER Serial killer's jail therapist.

'Gilgo' shrink's fraud rap

Gilgo Beach serial killer Rex Heuermann's longtime shrink practiced as a clinical social worker without a license for years — and is facing felony charges over tens of thousands of dollars in allegedly bogus insurance reimbursements.

Alison Winter, 52, who was Heuermann's jailhouse therapist for nearly three years, had already been charged with three counts of grand larceny when she was present for his confession to his wife and daughter that he murdered eight women, Newsday reported.

She was arrested in November 2024 on the grand-larceny charges as well as scheme to defraud and 14 counts of unauthorized practice of a profession for allegedly posing as a licensed social worker between 2018 and 2024, charging documents reveal.

Prosecutors said Winter received $60,000 in reimbursements despite not having a license to dispense therapy. *Chris Nesi*

Double drone trouble at JFK

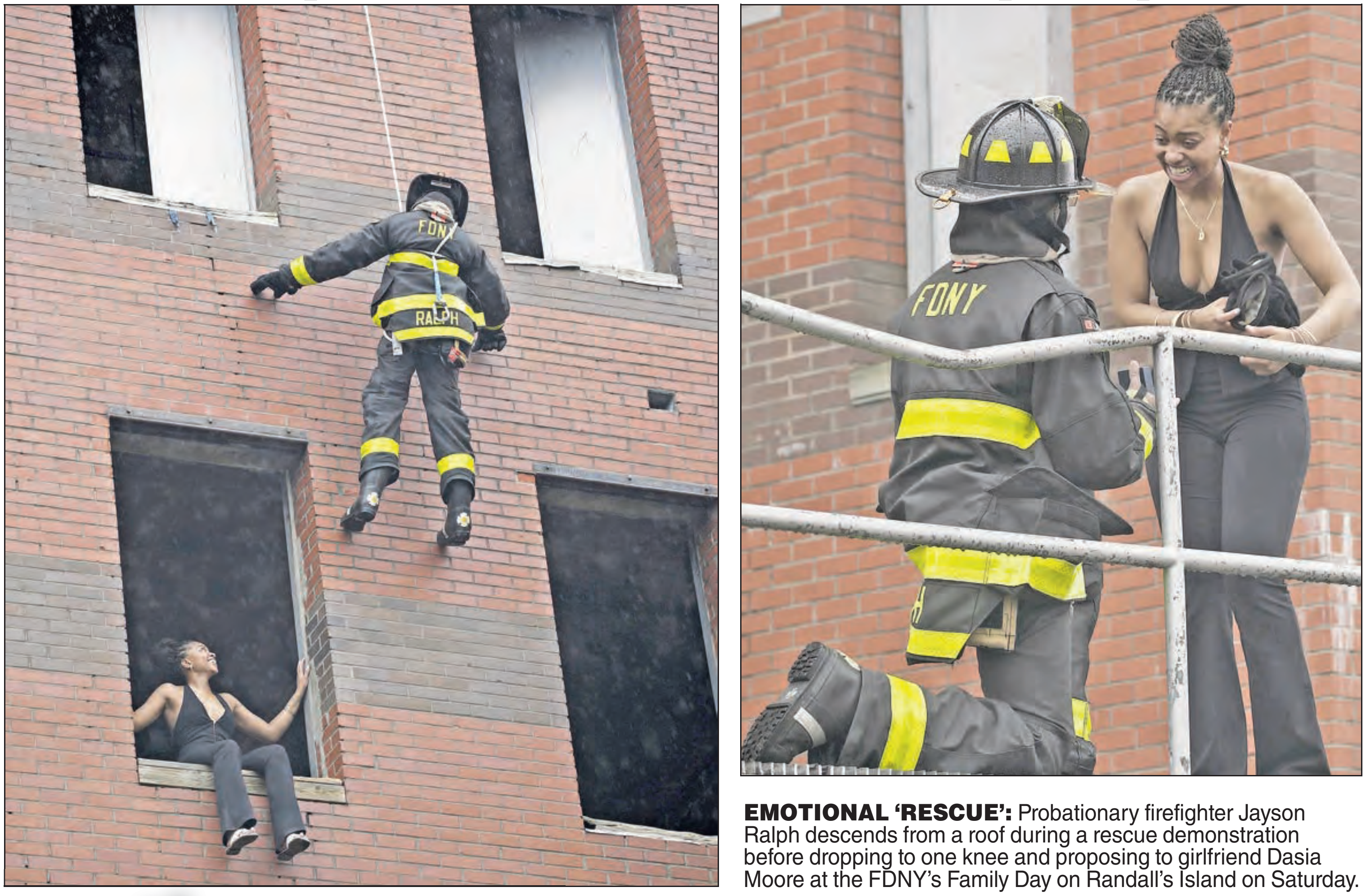
A helicopter pilot reported a near-miss with a remote-controlled plane at John F. Kennedy Airport on the same day a JetBlue flight hit a drone as it was touching down there.

The Bell 407 helicopter captain averted a collision Monday while flying from JFK to a Manhattan heliport.

Hours earlier, the JetBlue plane smashed into the UAV at an altitude of 3,000 feet before landing safely.

The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the collision but not the near-miss. *Chris Bradford*

Probie practice & a real proposal



FDNY

EMOTIONAL 'RESCUE': Probationary firefighter Jayson Ralph descends from a roof during a rescue demonstration before dropping to one knee and proposing to girlfriend Dasia Moore at the FDNY's Family Day on Randall's Island on Saturday.

FIRE ALARM 'RINGING'

PROBY
FIREFIGHTER
13633

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Sparks really did fly!

A newly minted FDNY firefighter-in-training also recently picked up the title of fiancé when his fellow Bravest helped him pull off an incredible proposal.

Probationary firefighter Jayson Ralph dropped to one knee during the department's Family Day on Randall's Island on Saturday — shocking his now-fiancée, who thought she was simply participating in a mock rescue. Heartwarming pictures show Ralph first rappelling down a building in his gear as girlfriend Dasia Moore proudly watches from her seat on one of its window ledges, waiting to be "rescued."

'Marry me'

Ralph then scooped her up away from the fake fire — and stunned her with some ice. Several other firemen stood nearby, each holding out a letter that read: "Marry me."

"All-hands were clearly operating to help ask the question," the FDNY said on X.

"Congrats, Proby!"

Family Day is when the FDNY's probationary firefighters invite their family and friends to witness the lifesaving skills they've been practicing over the past several months before they graduate from the academy. The drills at the Randall's Island Fire Academy include mock rescues and fire-hose demonstrations.

Social media was on fire with congratulations and praise for the newly engaged pair.

One person wrote, "Who says Probies can't have at least a little fun?!"

The engagement occurred a few days after an FDNY-focused high school in Brooklyn held graduation — with many of its departing students expected to head to the academy at some point.

SQUEEZED OUT

UES pad facing $7M loss

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

A six-story Upper East Side townhouse that cost its owner over $16 million to buy and renovate is now on the market for just under $9 million — a staggering $7 million loss.

The seller, who requested anonymity, bought 238 1/2 E. 83rd St. in January 2013 for $2.6 million and spent $13.6 million tricking out the place — adding levels and installing custom-made marble floors, mahogany panels, an elevator, central air and a sophisticated security system.

"He did it knowing full well he likely wouldn't get [his money] out," co-listing agent Brown Harris Stevens' Maggie Peters said during a tour of the property. "It was like a vanity project."

His loss is a buyer's gain.

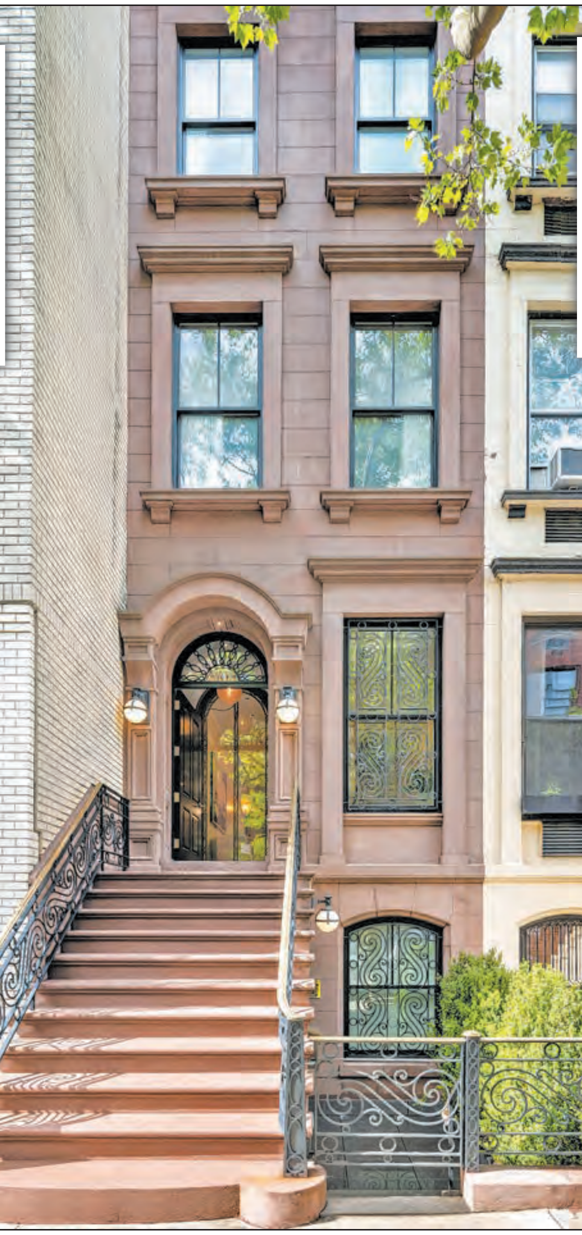
"Anybody who's buying it is getting an incredible bang for their buck," Peters said.

Two major factors are driving the discount: width and location.

At just 14 feet wide, the 4,400-square-foot house is narrower than the city average of 18 to 20 feet, according to co-listing broker Barbara Fox of BHS.

"Its width sends most people running, but yet it doesn't read like a narrow, dark townhouse," Peters said. "It really doesn't."

It is also situated between Second and Third avenues, well removed from the tony enclaves west of Lexington Avenue.



Edward Menashy/Evan Joseph

SKINNY DIP: A narrow six-story Upper East Side townhome is for sale for under $9 million, after the seller poured $16 million into the renovation.

The block features a psychic, a copy store, an auto repair shop and small residential buildings.

Inside, the owner, who primarily resides in Connecticut, spent $13.6 million completely transforming the property, converting it from a two-family building into a single-family mega-home.

The gut renovation added three stories, six distinct outdoor spaces and entirely new mechanical systems.

The house, Peters added, "is a bit of an anomaly on the block."

House with quirks

The home has three to four bedrooms, five bathrooms and three powder rooms, with a separate ground-floor apartment with its own street entrance.

The highly customized house has some quirks.

For one thing, there is no formal dining room.

And on the second level, it was originally configured "like a man cave," Peters said. "There was no proper living room. So we had to rejigger it to make it practical."

The other side of that floor has a copper-top bar with seating, a fireplace, a TV, a powder room and a terrace.

On three are two spacious bedrooms and two marble bathrooms, plus a laundry room.

In the finished basement, there is a wine storage unit with a floor that looks like cork, full-size laundry equipment and a dog-washing sink.

'Robo' drones taking off on LI

A new "Robocop"-esque fleet of drone "first-responders" will begin helping Nassau County authorities with surveillance during emergency calls and large-scale events, according to officials.

The $1 million "Drone First Responder Program" will deploy 70 drones to a 40-man unit of FAA-certified officers stationed throughout eight locations in the county and allow them to view live aerial footage during emergency calls, large gatherings or any time police are dispatched, officials announced at the police training center in Uniondale, LI, on Monday.

"Trying to stay ahead of the curve is something we strive for every single day to protect Nassau County residents," County Executive Bruce Blakeman said.

The drones can fly for roughly 30 minutes at a time within a 2.5-mile radius, reach some scenes in under a minute and hover at 200 feet, which is close enough to zoom in on a license plate, officials said.

The flying metal first-responders are equipped with infrared night vision and thermal imaging cameras, so the aircraft can see in all conditions, track fleeing suspects and scope out an active shooter or barricaded suspect in hostile situations before officers ever set foot on scene, they said.

Officials pushed back on concerns the tech would be invasive to residents' privacy and serve as "Big Brother's" eyes and ears on the street. *Brandon Cruz*

Bx. rodeo lacked a permit

The Bronx rodeo where a bull rider was injured after being trampled upon failed to obtain the necessary permit to hold such an event, according to a report.

Organizers behind Sunday's event at Baychester didn't receive a permit from the New York City Health Department prior to the rodeo taking place, WABC reported.

In New York City, permits for rodeos are issued by the city's Commissioner of Health.

The "Rodeo Tierra Caliente" event, which the NYPD said was sanctioned, saw a 25-year-old man injured when he was bucked off the animal.

He was bounced around until he was thrown off the back of the animal — before being trampled and dragged across the dirt, shocking video seen by The Post shows.

The Post has approached the company for comment.

Chris Bradford

LIE air-crew horror crash

Two people were killed and nearly 20 injured after a bus carrying a Royal Jordanian Airlines flight crew overturned on the Long Island Expressway.

The coach bus smashed into two vehicles around 11:45 p.m. on Monday near Exit 16 for Greenpoint Avenue, according to the airline and the NYPD.

The bus then flipped over into oncoming traffic in the eastbound lanes, crashing into two cars, police said.

The 35-year-old male bus driver and an unidentified passenger — confirmed to be a Royal Jordanian crew member — were pronounced dead.

The operator of another smashed vehicle and an unidentified individual were taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Some 17 others suffered minor injuries in the wreck.

The flight crew had been on their way to hotel accommodations from JFK Airport. *Chris Bradford*

Founding Faith

America's architects saw the greatness in us

BRIAN KILMEADE

Getty Images

Paying tribute: Families pose with a giant bust of Washington in Virginia.

THIS week I can't help but wonder what the Founding Fathers would think of our nation today. They fought to create a country that, in so many ways, should never have been formed, should never have functioned, should never have survived — let alone thrived.

The odds were long: A collection of farmers, shopkeepers, tradesmen and ordinary citizens volunteered to take on the finest fighting force in the world. Could the Founders ever have imagined that those 13 desperate colonies would come together, gradually add 37 more states, and become the world's premier economic and military superpower 250 years later?

My sense is they wouldn't be surprised at all. Anyone willing to pick up a musket and take on a professional army — leaving family, farms and futures behind — was already displaying the kind of courage that builds nations.

These Americans weren't simply dreaming of independence; they were betting everything on it. They were doers — people who expected hard things, accepted hard things and then did hard things anyway. Why would their successors be any different?

Everything about life in early America was hard. They bet on themselves before they ever bet on a nation.

Over time, they built their own institutions, formed their own communities, founded some of the world's finest schools and cherished the freedom and opportunity that the emerging America offered. They never asked for guarantees. They asked only for a chance — the very thing the old world had denied them.

When that freedom was threatened by British taxation, military occupation and forced billeting, it makes complete sense that these fierce, free-spirited, liberty-loving Americans would take up arms. By simply surviving those early years, they had built a generational toughness and pride — a belief that odds could be overcome because they had overcome them before. Hard was their normal.

When our War for Independence began 250 years ago, the British were using the colonies as a cash cow, imposing heavy taxes while deploying troops as enforcers to suppress unrest and take over private homes at will. For that first generation of Americans, the choice became simple: This must end.

The world must have laughed at the thought of a pedestrian militia taking on the British Empire. But when roughly 22,000 colonists showed up for army service, it was clear they were deadly serious — even though they were facing a British force that would eventually grow far larger and better equipped.

The fight began with promise at Lexington and Concord, but in August 1776 George Washington nearly lost his entire army in the Battle of Brooklyn — and the signers of the Declaration of Independence had every reason to fear their signatures might become their death warrants.

But Americans don't quit. They adapt.

Time and again, this country seems to find the right leader at the right moment — and in that moment, Washington was that leader. He and his men pulled off a stunning victory at Trenton on Dec. 26, 1776, and shocked the world again eight days later by defeating the Redcoats at Princeton.

Those were not mere battlefield victories, but proof of concept. They showed that this fragile American experiment had something inside it that could not be measured only in muskets, money or manpower: It had resolve.

And for eight long years the resilient and resourceful Washington led his men through sacrifice, setbacks, hunger, disease, doubt and bloodshed — culminating in victory at Yorktown. Yes, it was hard. But for early Americans, hard was expected.

That's why I believe our founders and first fighters wouldn't be surprised to learn that the country they created would become the dominant power in the world 250 years later. They may even have expected it.

Because despite our flaws, failures, divisions and detours, Americans have always believed we can accomplish what we set out to do. We're not afraid to fail. We argue, stumble, regroup, adapt — and keep moving until we win.

That was true when Washington crossed the Delaware. It was true when his army marched to Princeton. It was true when 13 colonies became a country. And it remains true today.

America has always defied the odds, taken on impossible tasks, and somehow found a way to prevail. Defying all logic, that trait has always been part of the American story.

I could not be more grateful that it remains the case today — and, I believe, will remain so far into the future.

Brian Kilmeade is the author of the upcoming "Uniting the States: The Six Crucial Moments That Forged the American Miracle."

THE WEEK'S BEST OF The Babylon Bee

Headlines from America's satirical news source, babylonbee.com

Cubans Living in NYC Begin Boarding Rafts to Escape Communism Again

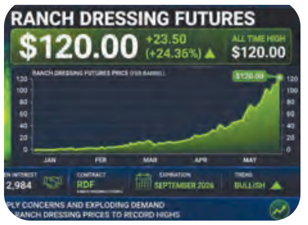
"I don't care where I go, but it can't be here," said Juan Rodriguez, a successful Cuban immigrant who had made quite a life for himself on Wall Street. "I escaped Cuba years ago to find a better life, but now communism is chasing me down again."

Olive Garden
ITALIAN KITCHEN

Supreme Court Rules Any Baby Born at Olive Garden is an Italian Citizen

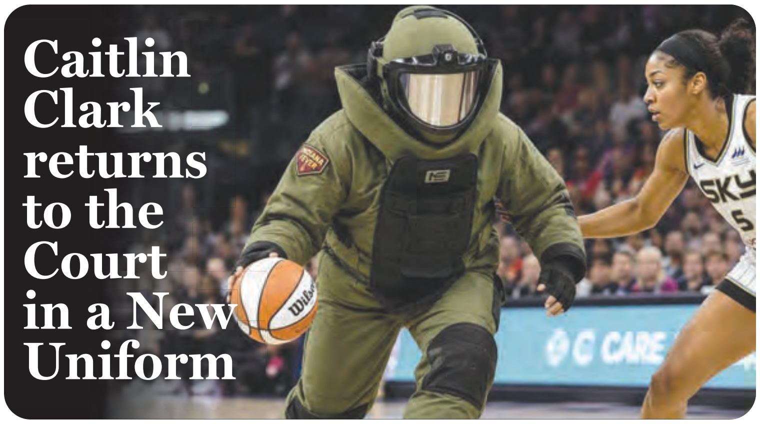
Olive Garden executives warned this would result in an inevitable breadstick crisis for future generations.

Ranch Dressing Futures Skyrocket to $120 a Barrel



The stunning economic news followed an unstoppable craze for the salad topping sparked by World Cup tourists.

Caitlin Clark returns to the Court in a New Uniform



"It limits her agility, but it should really cut down on the throat punches," said Fever coach Stephanie White.

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

Supremes Go 3 for 3

The Supremes played it straight in its final decisions of the season Tuesday, delivering two knockout rulings — on trans sports and campaign finance — and one on birthright citizenship that reflects a fair reading of the law, even if it disappoints President Donald Trump and immigration hardliners.

Letting states ban trans girls — that is, biological boys — from girls' sports in publicly funded schools and colleges is a victory for states' rights and common sense.

Even more important, such bans restore fair competition for biologically female athletes in their sports and relieve the concerns of millions of parents who don't want boys or men watching their daughters undress and shower in locker rooms, regardless of how they "identify."

Giving girls and young women equal access to their own sports under Title IX was a hard-fought achievement for women's rights that was pointedly attacked by the trans lobby, which made a twisted appeal for "fairness."

Indeed, allowing physically superior biological men to compete on the same playing fields and stand on the same award podiums as young women is the *precise opposite* of fair play.

The court also lifted restrictions on campaign spending by political parties on their candidates, so-called "coordinated spending." True, money isn't exactly speech, but it's been well-established — for example, in the Citizens United case — that restricting financing that can pay for pamphlets, commercials, films, etc. — amounts to a restriction of the First Amendment.

Letting political parties work with their candidates isn't a stretch, nor is it carving out some exotic new vehicle for corruption.

Finally, in a close 5-4 decision, the court ruled against Trump's executive order ending "birthright citizenship." Illegal immigrants, say restrictionists, are quick to have babies here who get automatic citizenship simply by being born on US soil in order to "anchor" their presence in the country.

Birthright citizenship, they say, draws them in, amounting to a loophole that needs to be close. Yet Chief Justice John Roberts noted that the 14th Amendment doesn't say anything about the status of the parents of a baby born here, and that the country would need to amend the Constitution to make such a profound change to the definition of American citizenship.

This is a plain reading of the law, and shows deference to long-established judicial rulings.

Restrictionists should nonetheless take heart: Just last week, the court ruled that the president can deny entry to bogus asylum-seekers at the border, which will go a long way to screening out those seeking to have anchor babies here.

Tuesday's decisions add up to a solid affirmation of common sense, a recognition of shared values and plain, straight-forward reading of the law. Bravo!

An Unsound Budget, Less Safe City

Mayor Mamdani and City Council Speaker Julie Menin managed Tuesday to agree on a budget for the year that starts July 1 with just hours to go. New Yorkers may wish they hadn't bothered.

For starters, the ginormous *$126 billion* plan is, per city Comptroller Mark Levine, essentially unsound — as it relies on one-shots, fiscal gimmicks, phony savings and, basically, chewing gum to hold it together.

Mamdani & Co. managed to paper over the shortfall between spending and revenue *this* year — but they left monster gaps down the road.

Another huge worry: The plan sacrifices public safety by holding down the NYPD headcount, scrapping planned police academy classes that would've added another 580 cops, while *upping* outlays for more giveaways. The socialist mayor just *had* to cave to his fellow Defund-the-Police cronies who demanded not one cop more.

"I am proud to have worked closely with Mayor Mamdani and public safety advocates to ensure there was no increase in the NYPD's headcount in this budget," Queens lefty Tiffany Caban gleefully posted on X.

Meanwhile, retirement and other attrition will lower the headcount over the next few months. Feel safer yet?

At the same time, the council insisted on injecting another $225 million into the city's housing-voucher program, which is meant to help people in shelters move into permanent housing, even though its costs have mushroomed from $25 million in fiscal year 2019 to almost *$2 billion* last year.

In 2023, the program became a fiscal flashpoint when the council unwisely passed legislation expanding eligibility to people with higher incomes and to those facing eviction.

As the Citizens Budget Commission has warned, the program may cost less than shelter stays *in the short-run*, but it becomes "substantially more expensive over time."

Indeed, Levine warns it's growing at an astounding *4% per day*, with unchecked spending likely reaching *up to $20 billion over the next five years*.

And the budget is chock full of other unaffordable and out-of-control outlays as well — most notably, $39.9 billion for schools, even though the city spends more per student than almost other major city in America, and gets mediocre results. Oh, and that figure represents a $3 billion increase over last year, even as enrollment is declining.

Mamdani seems to think billions will fall from the skies — or maybe Albany or Washington or Wall Street — to cover the billions in gaps he's now staring at in future budgets.

That's the typical magical thinking of a socialist. And when the magic fails, New Yorkers will be stuck with the bill.

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letters@nypost.com

New York Sinks Deeper After Mam's Pals Win Big

THE ISSUE: Claire Valdez, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Brad Lander winning the Democratic primaries.

- I am disgusted with the current state of our formerly great city ("Plot to end America," Melanie Phillips, June 26).

Never in my wildest dreams did I think we'd have a rabid antisemitic mayor and a slate of similar bigots running for office — Claire Valdez, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Brad Lander. Antisemitism runs rampant in the city with hardly a peep from our so-called leader.

My only solace is that I don't live there anymore; I am happily retired in Florida.

Bob Schwartzman
Boynton Beach, Fla.

- Low voter turnout and indoctrinated Gen Z slackers have left us with three communists on the ballot in November.

As New Yorkers, we need to stop with identity politics and get common-sense candidates to run against these horrible choices.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand are so fearful of losing power.

Please remember in November: Trump is only here for a short time. The comrades and their horrible policies will be there for long haul.

Mary Harkins
Manhattan

- I find myself wondering how Chevalier — who, based on her policy positions and social media posts, loathes this country — will be able to take the required oath of office at her swearing in.

The oath states, in part, that a member of Congress must "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic" and "take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion."

This is a question The Post should ask her and her fellow DSA members.

Bob Wilson
Massapequa

Brad Lander

- After the results of the primaries, the only hope left for NYC and perhaps the entire state population is to elect Bruce Blakeman governor.

Hopefully, he will be able to rein in the evil that looms among the Democrats and their far-left leaning members.

A win for Gov. Hochul may fuel a bad future for the entire country, with California leaning in the same direction.

David Porrini
Port Orange, Fla.

- To Lander: No matter how often he calls you a "friend," no matter how often he compliments you or flashes his smirk at you, Mamdani hates your guts. He is a rabid Jew-hater, and you are a Jew.

You have no pride in your heritage and are ashamed of being Jewish. You have sold your soul and that makes you evil.

Barry Koppel
Kew Gardens Hills

- I think it's wrong for Chevalier to be a congresswoman when she has terrible disrespect toward the American flag. She said she'd use our flag to wipe herself. Men and women fought and died for that flag.

I served proudly in the US Navy, and I won't condone an ignoramus like Chevalier continuing her attacks on our nation.

Thomas Patrick Folan
Nesconset

- The victory of communist ideology in New York's primary should sound a very loud klaxon all over the world, but all we hear from the party's leaders is a peep.

Always anxious Jeffries and ponderous Schumer are unfit for the trials their party now faces. Who will marshal common sense, gather normal Dems and cast the crazies out? Time's wasting, and so is our patience.

Paul Bloustein
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Mamdani's forces came out in large numbers and left their mark. You can be sure this group of pampered progressives attended some of the top-notch universities, and it was there where their indoctrination took hold.

To prove the point, Chevalier was one of those defiant participants during the Columbia University demonstrations. The root of the problem are lefty faculties inculcating ideologies in the minds of young adults.

Ronald Frank
West Orange, NJ

- Just think how much of a coward you have to be to be Lander. This Jew cozies up to people that not only hate Israelis, who are fighting for their lives against Middle Eastern terror groups, but hate all Jews. There really is a special place in hell for him.

Jake McNicholas
Whitestone

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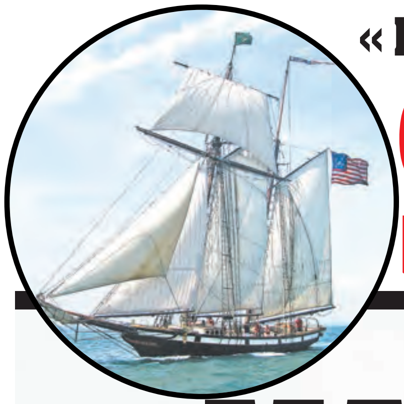


Sail4th 250

SPONSORED SECTION

MAKING WAVES

New York pushes the boat out to celebrate America's big birthday

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

WHAT fireworks? This year, the real star of America's July Fourth celebrations will be the largest maritime and aerial gathering in US history to mark the country's semiquincentennial.

The International Parade of Sail alongside the International Naval Review in New York Harbor was organized by Sail4th 250, a nonprofit organization that's the successor to Operation Sail Inc. — an organization President John F. Kennedy endorsed in 1961 to "promote international friendship, maritime heritage, and support for sail training, through spectacular gatherings of the world's tall ships."

Though the events span July 3 to 8, the marquee day is, of course, July 4. Kicking off Independence Day festivities around 7:30 a.m., a sole US Navy vessel will make the journey from the George Washington Bridge down the Hudson River. En route, it will recognize the 42 US and allied naval vessels, including USS Arlington, USS Iwo Jima and four US Naval Academy Yard Patrol Craft, anchored along the river.

Then, at 9:30 a.m., the flagship International Parade of Sail begins, featuring 45 tall ships — Class A vessels ranging from 160 to 370 feet, joined by the Class B fleet.

The ships will sail from under Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, past the Statue of Liberty, and up the Hudson River to the GW Bridge, with the total passage taking about 2 1/2 hours, with 6-minute intervals between ships. The Parade is expected to wrap up around 2:30 p.m.

The tall ships hail from 20 nations, including India, Argentina, Italy, Romania, France and Uruguay. To boost the wow factor, starting at around 10:15 a.m., nearly 200 aircraft led by the US Navy Blue Angels will overfly the parade for the International Aerial Review.

This year, the public will be able to reserve free tickets to board and meet the crew members of these visiting tall ships throughout New York Harbor from July 5 through 7. (Available at Sail4th.org/tall-ship-tours.)

These events may look effortless, but they require years of behind-the-scenes work. For every tall ship spectacle, Chris O'Brien, president of Sail4th 250, which is based in New York City, said that it's the culmination of years of painstaking coordination between a number of cities, state and federal authorities and the foreign attachés and crew of the ships themselves.

"Our small team at Sail4th 250 has been at this for six years," he said. "We are optimistic that our efforts will result in an even larger turnout and a greater sense of American pride for all who witness these events in the Port of New York and New Jersey this July."

BY THE NUMBERS

45 tall ships in the International Parade of Sail

42 US and allied naval vessels

20 nations among the tall ships

40 nations represented in New York Harbor

150+ aircraft led by the US Navy's Blue Angels

16,000 US and foreign sailors in port

6 million spectators expected on 15 miles of waterfront

U.S. COAST GUARD

The International Parade of Sail on July 4 will be led off by the Coast Guard's 295-foot, three-masted barque the USCGC Eagle.

Tech. Sgt. Cory Payne

Tall ships filled New York Harbor for the bicentennial celebrations in 1976.

Sail4th 250

SPANNING THE YEARS

From 1976 to today, Al Roker's back on the boat beat

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

AL Roker is a New Yorker, through and through. Born in Queens and a graduate of Xavier HS in Chelsea ("Xavier, keep marching on to victory!") and SUNY Oswego, he wears his Empire State badge with pride.

So it's especially fitting that in 1976, with only two years of experience being a TV weatherman for WHEN-TV in Syracuse, one of his first big assignments sent him back downstate: The rookie reporter boarded the train to Manhattan to cover America's bicentennial.

"I came down to do a piece on the tall ships," said Roker, referring to Operation Sail 1976, which showcased more than 200 ships in New York Harbor. "Nobody had seen anything like this. The city was electric," he added.

"It was really very special — the 200th birthday of America. We had come through the '70s, and it had been kind of a turbulent time, and a lot of things were changing. But the one thing that people appreciated was that we had made changes and that we were coming together as a country," said Roker. "It made you take stock of who we were, and Lord knows it wasn't perfect then, and it certainly isn't perfect now."

Even though Roker admits that the semiquincentennial "doesn't quite roll off the tongue" in the same way as bicentennial did, he feels honored to be part of the Sail4th 250 festivities.

"The city's really excited about both Sail4th and the New York Knicks, so it's a good time to be in New York," he said.

Roker will be on board USCGC Eagle, a 295-foot Coast Guard barque, "the Coast Guard tall ship leading things off," he said. Roker's looking forward to being a "reporter on the water" entering New York Harbor live on the "Today" show on July Fourth.

Roker will join NBC "Today" co-anchors Savannah Guthrie, Craig Melvin, Sheinelle Jones, Laura Jarrett, Willie Geist, Jenna Bush Hager and Carson Daly, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Telemundo's Carlos Calderón and Lourdes Stephen will lead Spanish-language coverage throughout.

Their HQ will be Governors Island, with nearly 50 cameras deployed along the 16-mile parade route.

He's got a bit of kid-in-a-candy-store syndrome when describing his anticipation for the marine spectacle.

"To see all these ships, this literal parade of ships, all gathered together — because it doesn't happen that often — to be able to see that and take part in that, that's pretty special," said Roker. Plus, he appreciates that this demonstration will serve as a peaceful homage to our military and traditions as a gesture "that isn't 'here's our military might,' as opposed to 'here's our pride.' "

Roker finds this seafaring tribute particularly poignant since many New Yorkers can trace their family lineage through one of the ports. He also acknowledged the many enslaved people who arrived at one of New York's ports not by their own volition.

"We all came here in some way," he said. "We really are a nation of immigrants that have come together, because unless you're an Indigenous person, you were not here."

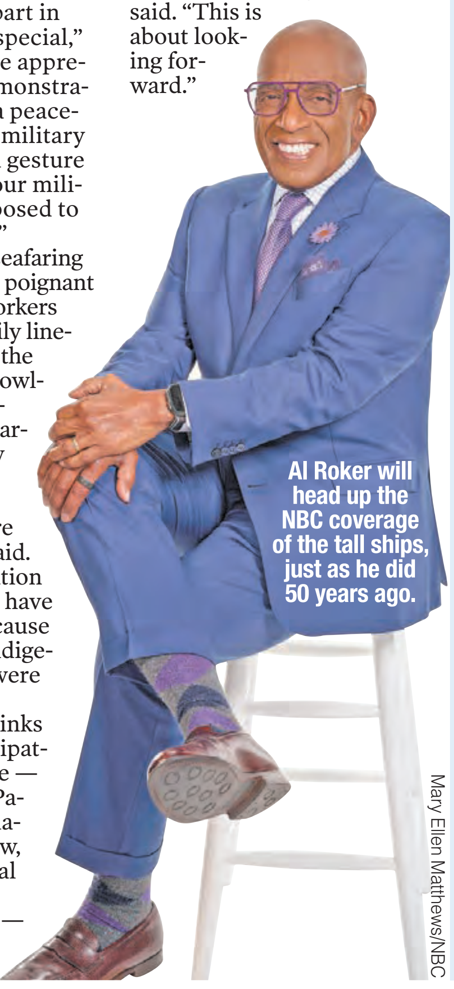
That's why he thinks watching or participating in the spectacle — the International Parade of Sail, International Naval Review, International Aerial Review and other Sail4th 250 events — is very important for citizens of this city and country. "You can't make this place better unless you take part," he said. "Not just for the celebration, but for the hard parts."

Roker also stressed that he's proud to be an American, but recognizes that we have a lot of work to do.

"We cannot take what we have for granted and that is America," he said. "You're not, for the most part, given anything. You have the opportunity to do things," adding that "this country, one hopes, is about our government, our judicial system and our legislative branches . . . On our 250th birthday, hopefully we've done more right things than the wrong things. That's the mark of a great democracy."

After the Sail4th 250 event, Roker is eager to arrive at his house in upstate New York. "I am looking forward to celebrating on our lake . . . with a box of rosé and some good cheese and crackers and watching the fireworks," he said of his plans.

Sitting on his pontoon, the venerated weatherman will still take time to reflect on the occasion. "This isn't just about looking back," he said. "This is about looking forward."



Al Roker will head up the NBC coverage of the tall ships, just as he did 50 years ago.

Mary Ellen Matthews/NBC

See America's birth certificate: a 1776 poster of the Declaration of Independence.

Richard Bowditch

Declaration of Independence

SEAS THE DAY

Head to South Street Seaport for a glimpse of the past — and fireworks front row

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

ON view now, "The Promise of Liberty: Words That Shaped a Nation" at the South Street Seaport Museum, is displaying an array of rare, original documents.

Visitors should make a beeline to the exhibit's shining star: a copy of the 1787 "Official Edition" US Constitution on loan from Citadel founder Kenneth C. Griffin, made accessible to the public for the first time in decades.

Along with the *pièce de résistance*, a July 1776 broadside of the Declaration of Independence and a 1789 printing of the Bill of Rights will be on display. You'll also get to gaze at an undelivered inaugural address by George Washington, the Emancipation Proclamation, a 1937 press release for a speech commemorating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and an advance copy of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "March on Washington" speech.

Tickets cost $10.

If you can swing by tonight at 6:30 p.m., you can snag a free ticket to "Parade of Ships: From George Washington to Sail4th 250," a presentation by Robert Snyder, author and Manhattan's one-time borough historian. He'll explore the critical maritime role the city has played, from the American Revolution to trade and shipping.

Seaport Museum director of collections and exhibitions, Martina Caruso, will also look at New York Harbor's 200-year history of waterfront celebrations and historic events in New York, from a reception of George Washington in 1789 to the Operation Sail events of 1964, 1976 and 1986.

Guests will see photographs and film footage preserved in the museum's collections, as well as a screening of recently digitized archival footage from the 1976 bicentennial OpSail. The event wraps with a Q&A session with the speakers.

And, if you're in the neighborhood on July Fourth, you'll be in one of the best spots to view the 50th Macy's spectacular.

"Red, White & Views: Fourth of July Fireworks at the Seaport Museum" provides East River fireworks viewing from Pier 16, with premium options for $600 a head aboard the historic 1885 tall ship Wavertree docked at the pier.

Early bird tickets range from $100 to $300 (although the private Pioneer charter starts at $30,000). Pier access starts at 6:30 p.m; fireworks start at 9:25 p.m.

For more info, see SeaportMuseum.org.

SHIP SHAPE

How the parade of ships evolved, from 1976 to now

Lady Liberty saluted the tall ships sailing the harbor during the 2000 millennium celebration.
Sail4th 250/REUTERS

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

'THE Tall Ships are coming . . ." So read a bold-face line in the "Beefeater Guide to the Tall Ships of Operation Sail 1976."

Also called "Op Sail '76," the tribute to America's bicentennial gathered more than 200 ships helmed by some 6,000 sailing cadets from 30 nations. A runaway (sailaway?) success by all accounts, an estimated 6 million viewers gathered on July 4, 1976, to see the parade of ships journey from the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge up along the Hudson River.

Now, on the eve of America's semiquincentennial, Chris O'Brien (pictured above), president of Sail4th 250, sees many analogies between the 1976 and 2026 occasions.

"In both cases, the nation found itself divided, anxious and questioning whether celebration was even appropriate — and in both cases, the answer was a resounding yes," said O'Brien. "Fifty years ago, 6 million people lined the shores of a near-bankrupt New York City to watch tall ships sail past Lady Liberty, choosing unity over cynicism at one of the lowest moments in the city's modern history."

O'Brien emphasized the many other historic US milestones accentuated by appearances of these magnificent tall ships sailing into New York Harbor: the centennial of the Statue of Liberty (1986), the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival on these shores (1992), the Millennium (2000) and the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 (2012), to tick off some of the most memorable.

Despite all the current excitement, O'Brien remembers all too well when he and his team started planning for the semiquincentennial at the start of the pandemic and "were not feeling all that optimistic."

Still, the small team pushed on, and when the first replies from the international tall ships started trickling in, with many vessels even changing itineraries to attend on July 4, they knew they were onto something.

"The subsequent addition of an International Naval Review, only the seventh in US history and fourth in New York Harbor, plus an International Aerial Review, added wind to our sails," recalled O'Brien.

By the time America celebrated its 249th birthday, O'Brien was relieved that "the pieces of this very complex puzzle" were coming together.

The "sheer scale" of the resulting event compared to Operation Sail 1976 at America's bicentennial is something to behold.

"This is not just a tall ship parade but the largest maritime event in US history, with 44 nations represented, a live network broadcast on NBC and Telemundo, and an estimated $2.8 billion in economic impact for the region," said O'Brien. "What remains beautifully unchanged is the power of these magnificent vessels to remind us, whatever our differences, that we are part of something larger than ourselves."

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SAIL OF THE CENTURIES

Where to see and experience the tall ships for America’s semiquincentennial

Lynx
Juan Bautista Cambiaso
INS Sudarshini

PARADE VIEWING LOCATIONS

While there isn’t a bad seat along the 15 miles of New York and New Jersey waterfront for the International Parade of Sail on July Fourth, some top spots include the **Hudson River Waterfront Greenway**, **Hudson River Park** (Piers 45, 46 and 26) in Manhattan and **Brooklyn Bridge Park** in Brooklyn.

For the Class B Parade of Ships on July 3, primo viewing locales include the **South Street Seaport** in Manhattan, **Governors Island**, and **Stapleton Waterfront Park** and the **North Shore Waterfront Esplanade** in Staten Island.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

1 to 3 p.m.: Watch the Class B fleet of international ships on their own parade of sail. This introductory parade of private- and foundation-owned Class B tall ships sails down the East River starting at Hell Gate Bridge, pausing at South Street Seaport and then journeying onward to anchorages in Gravesend Bay in Brooklyn.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

7:30 to 9 a.m.: See the International Naval Review, where gray-hull ships from navies around the world are anchored on the Hudson River southward from the George Washington Bridge for a showcase of maritime cooperation.

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Watch the International Parade of Sail, which will feature 45 tall ships from 20 countries sailing from under the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, past the Statue of Liberty to the George Washington Bridge.

10:15 a.m.: Look up! The International Aerial Review will showcase some 150 aircraft, led by the US Navy’s Blue Angels, flying in formation over the International Parade of Sail until 11 a.m. above the Hudson River. The tribute starts near the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge and ends in Yonkers.

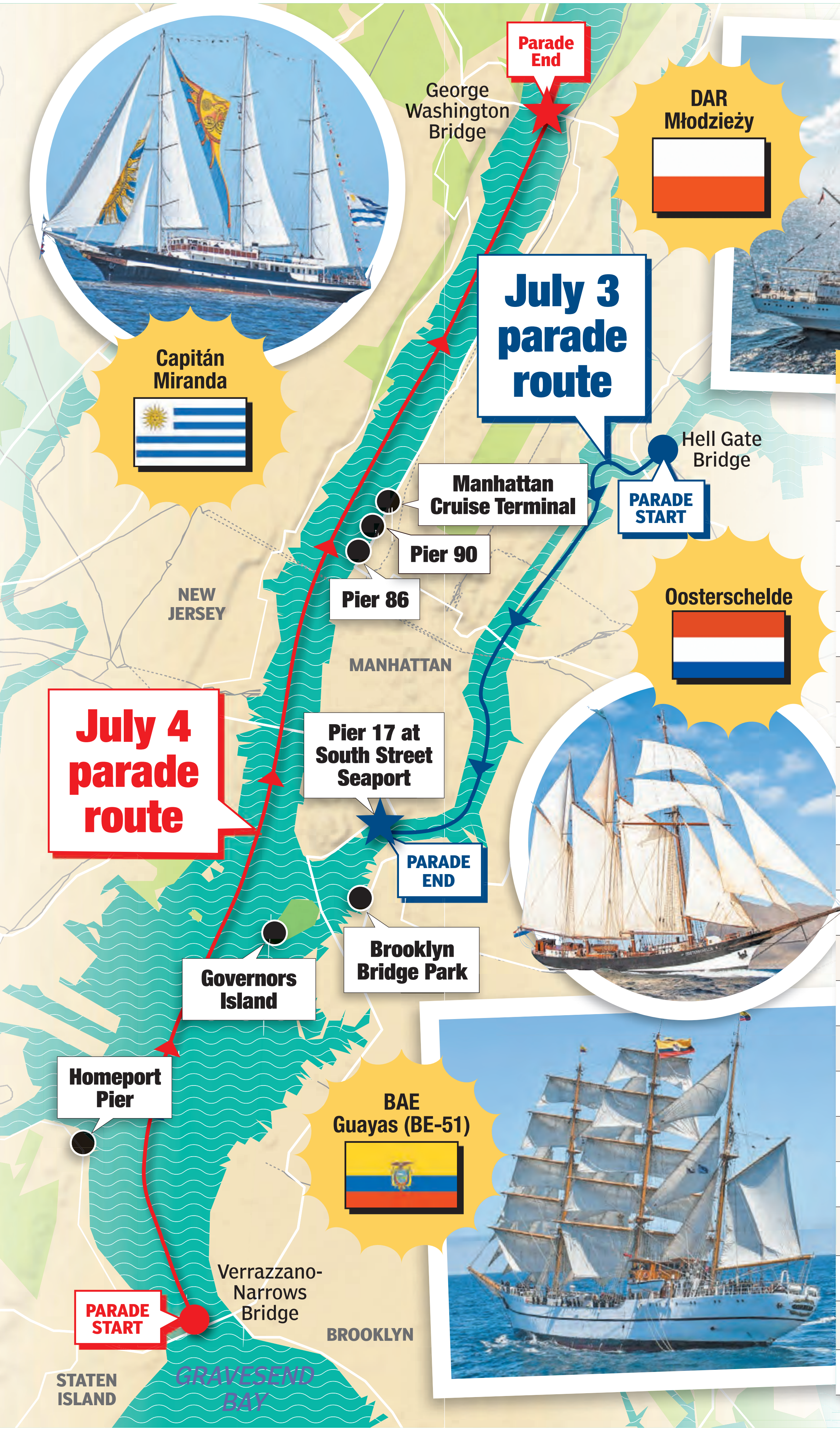
JULY 5-7

View these tall ships at the following locations. Reserve free tickets at **Sail4th.org/tall-ship-tours**. Boarding times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with timing subject to change.

Manhattan Cruise Terminal: ARA Libertad, Juan Bautista Cambiaso, BAE Guayas (BE-51), Belle Poule, DAR Młodzieży
Homeport Pier (Staten Island): Esmeralda, ARC Gloria, BAP Union
Brooklyn Bridge Park: Gorch Fock, INS Sudarshini, NRP Sagres, Mircea
Pier 90 (Manhattan): Juan Sebastián de Elcano
Pier 86 (Manhattan): HMS Gladan, Capitán Miranda, Amerigo Vespucci
Pier 17 (Manhattan): USCGC Eagle

KEEP UP WITH THE ACTION

Follow Sail4th 250’s historic week of events with Aqua Map (iOS and Android devices) or **AquaMap.app/sail4th-250**. See ship positions, identifications and the routes of every Sail4th 250 participating vessel as they travel from around the world into New York Harbor for the parade, as well as the week’s lineup of events.


Parade End
George Washington Bridge
DAR Młodzieży
July 3 parade route
Hell Gate Bridge
PARADE START
Capitán Miranda
Manhattan Cruise Terminal
Pier 90
Pier 86
NEW JERSEY
MANHATTAN
Oosterschelde
July 4 parade route
Pier 17 at South Street Seaport
PARADE END
Brooklyn Bridge Park
Governors Island
Homeport Pier
BAE Guayas (BE-51)
Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge
PARADE START
BROOKLYN
STATEN ISLAND
GRAVESEND BAY

TALL SHIPS PARADE OF SAIL SCHEDULE

Ship	Country	Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge	Governors Island	Intrepid Museum	George Washington Bridge	Dock
Oosterschelde	Netherlands	9:27 a.m.	10:18 a.m.	11:09 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	1:35 p.m.
USCGC Eagle	United States	9:33 a.m.	10:24 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	12:06 p.m.	1:54 p.m.
ARA Libertad	Argentina	9:39 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	11:21 a.m.	12:12 p.m.	1:03 p.m.
Esmeralda	Chile	9:45 a.m.	10:36 a.m.	11:27 a.m.	12:18 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
ARC Gloria	Colombia	9:51 a.m.	10:42 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	12:24 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Juan Bautista Cambiaso	Dominican Republic	9:57 a.m.	10:48 a.m.	11:39 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:21 p.m.
BAE Guayas (BE-51)	Ecuador	10:03 a.m.	10:54 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	12:36 p.m.	1:27 p.m.
Belle Poule	France	10:09 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	11:51 a.m.	12:42 p.m.	2:18 p.m.
Gorch Fock	Germany	10:15 a.m.	11:06 a.m.	11:57 a.m.	12:48 p.m.	1:38 p.m.
INS Sudarshini	India	10:21 a.m.	11:12 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	12:54 p.m.	2:56 p.m.
Amerigo Vespucci	Italy	10:27 a.m.	11:18 a.m.	12:09 p.m.	1:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.
BAP Union	Peru	10:33 a.m.	11:24 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	1:06 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
DAR Młodzieży	Poland	10:39 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	12:21 p.m.	1:12 p.m.	2:03 p.m.
NRP Sagres	Portugal	10:45 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	12:27 p.m.	1:18 p.m.	3:38 p.m.
Mircea	Romania	10:51 a.m.	11:42 a.m.	12:27 p.m.	1:18 p.m.	3:44 p.m.
Juan Sebastián de Elcano	Spain	10:57 a.m.	11:48 a.m.	12:39 p.m.	1:30 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
HMS Gladan	Sweden	11:03 a.m.	11:54 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1:36 p.m.	3:06 p.m.
Capitán Miranda	Uruguay	11:06 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:51 p.m.	1:42 p.m.	3:45 p.m.
Elissa	United States	11:12 a.m.	12:06 p.m.	12:57 p.m.	1:48 p.m.	4:08 p.m.

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ANNIVERSARY

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U.S. COAST GUARD

Sail 4th 250

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

JULY 4, 2026

The world's largest flotilla of tall ships will sail into the Port of New York and New Jersey, joined by naval vessels from around the world and a spectacular international aerial review.

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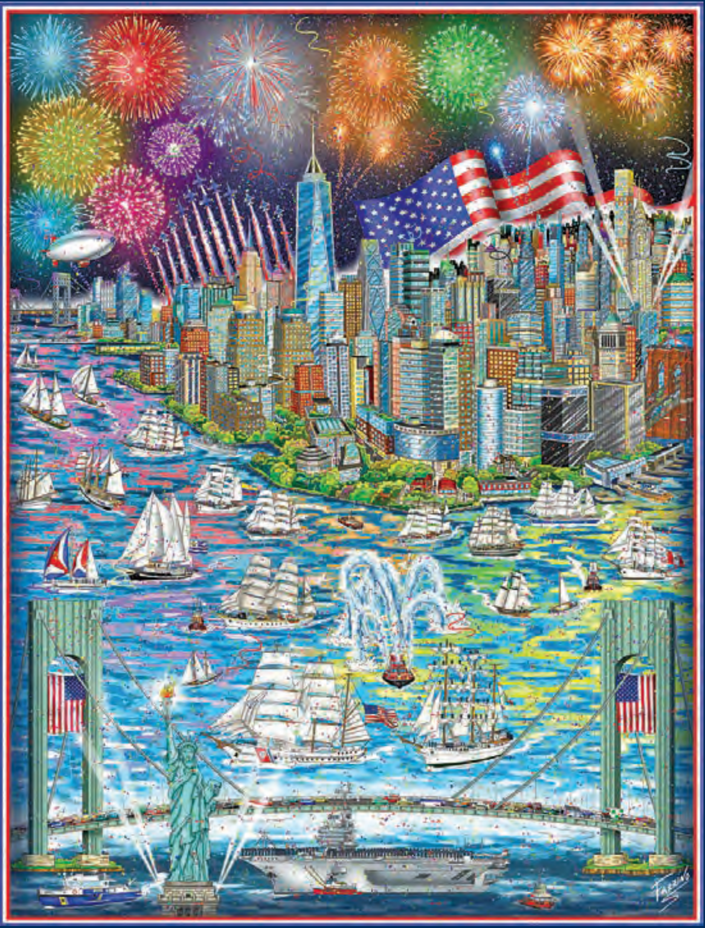
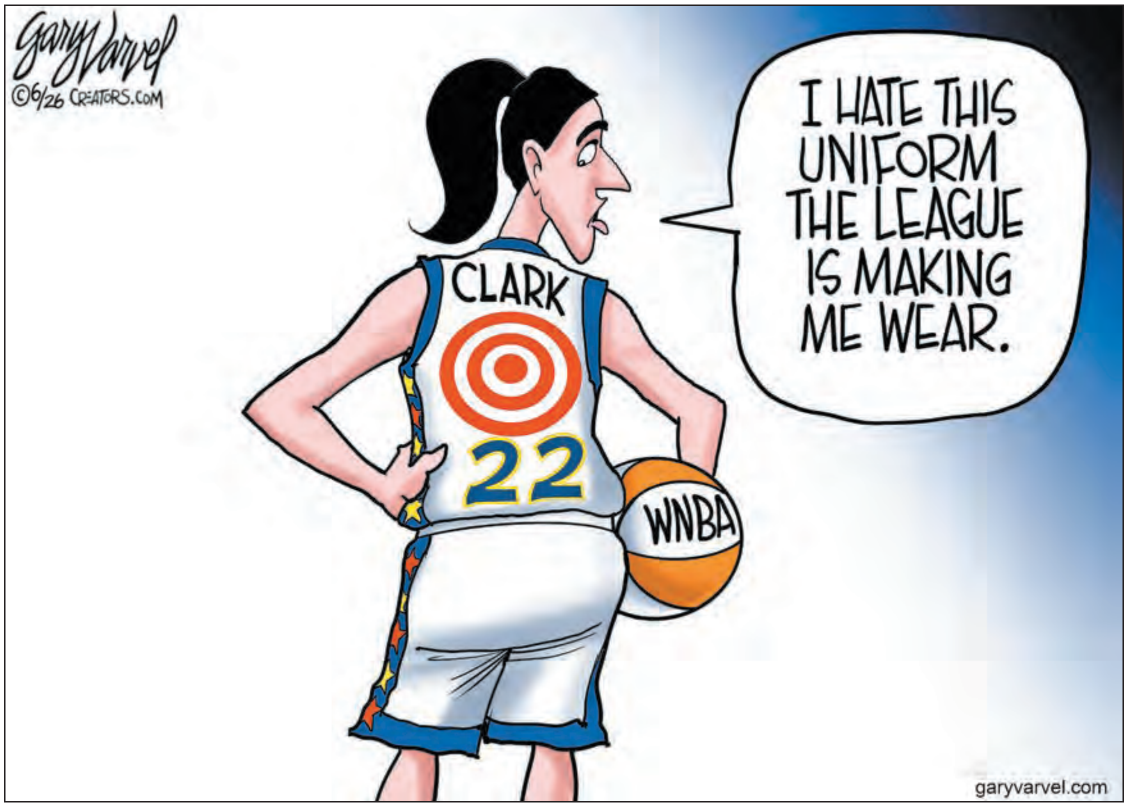


Sail 4th 250

Charles Fazzino is proud to have created the official artwork for **Sail4th 250.** This Open Edition Poster Print commemorates the NY Harbor Celebration and the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

BUY THE PRINT



ZO'S ISRAEL HYPOCRISY

Hizzoner can't hide his hate for the Jewish state

IT'S a shame, really: New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani is such a strong supporter of pluralism that he has to single out the state of Israel for unique opprobrium. Asked by Jonathan Karl of ABC News whether he supports Israel's status as a Jewish state, Mamdani said he doesn't — he'd only support Israel "as a state with equal rights."

"I believe that any state that privileges one religion over another is one that I can't tell you I support," he continued, "whether it be Israel or Saudi Arabia or anywhere else." Mamdani makes it sound like Israel is a theocracy, and so he has to withhold his support until such time as it meets his exacting standards for state neutrality in religious matters and freedom of conscience.

That's true, sadly, of Saudi Arabia. When is the last time, though, that you heard Mamdani or his movement, the Democratic Socialists of America, inveighing with great moral passion against Saudi Arabia?

This Mamdani line of argument is built on a falsehood about Israel and is transparently an exercise in bad faith and double standards. Israel doesn't have an official religion — repeat, it has *no* state religion.

Instead, it is the homeland for Jews. Its Basic Law says that Israel is "the nation-state of the Jewish people, in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination."

In other words, Israel is for the Jews in much the same way, say, that Poland is for the Poles or Japan for the Japanese. That these countries have distinct national identities defined by the peoples that live in them doesn't mean they aren't free societies.

The Israeli Declaration of Independence says the Jewish state "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

RICH LOWRY

And, indeed, there is freedom of religion in Israel.

Christian, Muslim, Druze and Baha'i communities maintain their own religious institutions and are free to worship as they please. The wrinkle is that — in an inheritance from the Ottoman Empire — Israel recognizes various religions and gives their religious courts authority over matters such as marriage and divorce.

To liken any of this to Saudi Arabia is perverse. The desert kingdom is an absolute monarchy with no political rights and a state-enforced official religion; the Koran is its constitution.

If Mamdani were sincere in not being able to support any state that privileges one religion over another, he'd have to set himself against most Muslim countries in the world, which make Islam their official religion and often discriminate against religious minorities.

He'd have to look askance at Nordic countries, where there are established churches. He'd hate England for the official status of the Anglican Church, and utterly disdain Greece for its special recognition of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Mamdani, by the way, recently skipped New York City's Israel Day parade, but has attended its Pakistan Day parade — despite the fact that Islam is that country's state religion, and religious minorities face legal and informal discrimination in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

More consequentially, if the mayor took his pluralism seriously, he would oppose a Palestinian state on grounds that Palestinian society needs to further evolve to embrace Western norms — lest we risk creating a new Islamic state that represses its people and rests on a foundation of Islamic law.

Of course, Mamdani will never do this. His purported universalism is a pretext, a way to dress up his irrational animus toward Israel.

Mamdani told Karl that his view on Israel "comes back to a fundamental belief that we should all be considered equal." Such is the mayor's commitment to equality that he singles out one people and one state for particular obloquy — and asks us to believe that pluralism demands that the Jews cannot have a homeland.

Justices Didn't End The Birthright Battle

WHEN President Trump's birthright-citizenship order reached the Supreme Court, the smart money said it would lose.

The question was whether the justices would take the narrow path Justice Brett Kavanaugh ultimately mapped out in his partial dissent, or constitutionalize the whole issue. They chose the latter.

In Trump v. Barbara, a five-justice majority held that the 14th Amendment itself guarantees citizenship to children born here to parents here illegally or only temporarily. That result will be hailed as a vindication of the post-Civil War promise of equal citizenship. But the opinion is more sweeping than it needed to be — and, on the originalist question, less inevitable than its defenders pretend.

For once, I agree with Kavanaugh's middle-of-the-road approach. He would've invalidated Trump's order because it conflicts with a 1940 federal law that was eventually folded into the Immigration and Nationality Act.

That would've been a perfectly respectable way to say, "Mr. President, you can't do this on your own. Congress itself has to speak." Kavanaugh's route wouldn't have settled any historical debate, but it's what courts should do when the statutory answer is relatively straightforward and the constitutional question isn't.

Reasonable originalists can disagree over whether "subject to the jurisdiction" — the key phrase in the 14th Amendment — just means being subject to American law, or a more complete allegiance tied to domicile and political membership. Anyone who says the administration's position was a Trumpian fever dream hasn't spent much time with the Reconstruction debates, early executive practice or Wong Kim Ark (an important but not dispositive 1898 case involving the child of resident aliens).

> **"Trump tried to solve by presidential pen what only law could."**

That doesn't mean Trump's order was automatically valid: Executive orders aren't amendments to the US Code, much less to the Constitution. The administration tried to solve by presidential pen what only law — if not constitutional law — could.

But the majority went further than necessary and turned a modern policy dilemma into a constitutional command. Justice Samuel Alito's dissent exposes the problem, even for those who don't agree with his bottom line.

"The Fourteenth Amendment dictates who must be a citizen," he wrote, but doesn't "address who may be a citizen by Act of Congress." In other words, the amendment sets a floor, not a ceiling.

Congress has long granted citizenship to people not constitutionally entitled to it, including children born abroad to American parents. The harder question was whether Congress could create prospective exceptions for children of non-citizens with no permanent tie to this country.

ILYA SHAPIRO

After Barbara, the answer is no. Trump says he wants Congress to fix this, but because the court reached the constitutional question, Congress can't simply redefine "subject to the jurisdiction." It can of course propose a constitutional amendment, but that isn't a legislative fix in any ordinary sense.

Short of that, the path Kavanaugh would've left open has been blocked. That matters, because the modern problem is real.

Birth tourism was unknown and practically inconceivable in 1868. Illegal immigration likewise wasn't on the minds of the 39th Congress.

Originalism isn't a séance, but it does require applying constitutional meaning to circumstances the ratifiers never anticipated. The dissenters were right that new conditions demand attention to the principles behind old exceptions — and that perhaps, as Justice Neil Gorsuch suggested, the kids of longtime illegal residents could be grandfathered in, on a case-by-case basis.

The majority instead treated a longstanding practice as legally definitive. That may bring administrative certainty, but it also freezes a controversial citizenship regime into the Constitution.

So where does that leave Trump? Not where he wants to be, but not nowhere. The federal government still controls visas, admissions, removals and border security.

It can tighten vetting to reduce birth-tourism abuse, further protect the border and remove overstays and illegal entrants. These are all unquestionably lawful tools.

Regardless, the court's decision won't make the birthright-citizenship debate disappear. It will make it harder, and even more political.

Trump lost the constitutional battle. Now he has to fight the enforcement war.

Ilya Shapiro is director of constitutional studies at the Manhattan Institute.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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I_1	O_1	O_1	K_5	D_2	S_1	D_2	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
E_1	E_1	E_1	I_1	V_4	D_2	C_3	1st Letter Double	RACK 2
A_1	O_1	U_1	T_1	K_5	L_1	T_1		RACK 3
A_1	O_1	U_1	L_1	R_1	L_1	D_2		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS

S_1	K_5	I_1	D_2	D_2	O_1	O_1	RACK 1 = 89
D_2	E_1	C_3	E_1	I_1	V_4	E_1	RACK 2 = 65
O_1	U_1	T_1	T_1	A_1	L_1	K_5	RACK 3 = 61
D_2	O_1	L_1	L_1	A_1	R_1		RACK 4 = 7
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL 222

SOLUTION

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

West dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 8 6 2
♡ J 3
◇ Q J 10 5 4
♣ K 6

WEST
♠ K 4
♡ A Q 4
◇ A 7 2
♣ 10 9 8 4 3

EAST
♠ A
♡ 10 8 7 5
◇ 9 8 6 3
♣ Q J 7 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 7 5 3
♡ K 9 6 2
◇ K
♣ A 5

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♡	1 ♠
2 ♡	2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠
All Pass			

Opening lead – ♣ 10

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I continue a series on making assumptions. It is said that success comes in cans; failure comes in can'ts. When you're a defender, assume the contract can be beaten; assume a lie of the cards that will make it possible.

Against today's three spades, West led the ten of clubs, and declarer won with the ace and led the king of diamonds. West took his ace and rightly feared that dummy's diamonds would give South heart discards. So West continued with the ace and queen of hearts.

That defense couldn't be right, and wasn't. South took his king, led a trump, and ended with nine tricks. He lost two trumps, a diamond and a heart.

West must give declarer a hand that will let the defense prevail. If South has the ace of trumps, the contract is surely unbeatable: He will lose a trump, a diamond and maybe two hearts. West must assume that East has the ace of trumps: At Trick Three, West leads his low trump. When East wins and leads a heart, the defense takes five tricks.

Word Force

MELLIFLUENT

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 16** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST

Yesterday's word:

APPOINTEE

atone
eaten
inapt
inept
opine
paint
patio
piano
pinto
point

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MONTREAL'S FAMOUS SCHWARTZ'S DELI **Solution: 6 letters**

H	G	B	A	G	E	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	T
R	O	N	D	E	K	O	M	S	A	U	S	A	G	E
R	Y	M	I	A	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	C	L	K
E	P	E	E	R	I	P	I	E	S	E	E	H	C	S
T	A	T	B	M	E	N	O	B	E	S	T	A	E	I
R	S	R	D	R	A	T	S	U	M	E	K	R	B	R
U	T	N	E	T	E	D	A	A	T	D	A	C	E	Ⓑ
F	R	I	E	S	E	A	E	C	W	I	R	U	U	Ⓔ
K	A	E	E	C	T	T	D	A	U	S	N	T	Q	Ⓔ
N	M	L	I	C	S	A	L	A	M	I	A	E	P	Ⓕ
A	I	P	O	E	R	S	U	M	E	A	T	R	I	S
R	S	M	V	I	E	H	E	R	B	S	Z	I	C	A
F	B	I	B	L	A	D	A	N	A	C	E	E	K	U
O	L	S	O	S	I	T	D	O	W	N	L	P	L	C
O	H	C	I	W	D	N	A	S	E	N	T	R	E	E

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Bagel, Beef, Best, Brisket, Canada, Catering, Charcuterie, Cheese, Coleslaw, Combo, Entrée, Frankfurter, Fries, Herbs, Homemade, Karnatzel, Landmark, Marinate, Meat, Mustard, Olives, Pastrami, Pickle, Poutine, Quebec, Restaurant, Ribs, Rye Bread, Salami, Sandwich, Sauce, Sausage, Sides, Simple, Sit Down, Smoked, Spiced, Steak, Steam, Tourist

Yesterday's Answer: Humble

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POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

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Solutions on Page 47

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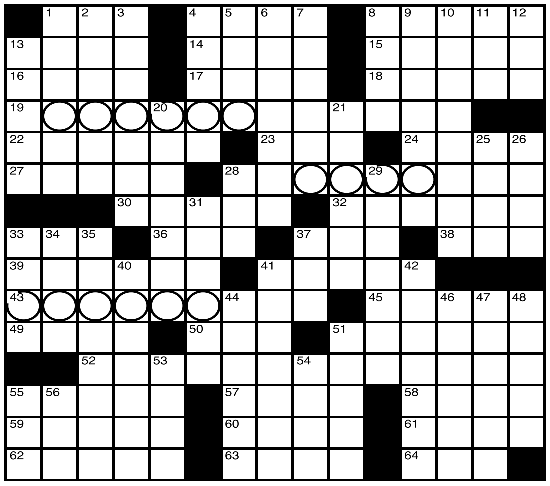
Very Easy #7,326

			3		2	4		
1		7	5	4				6
	4	3				9		
		8	9		1	6		2
3								5
5		6	8		7	1		
		1				2	6	
7				6	5	8		3
		2	1		4			

Difficult #7,116

9				7		8		
2			4		1			
			6	8				
		4		3		6		9
		7				5		
8		5		2		1		
				4	8			
			7		2			4
		2		1				5

Quick Crossword



Across
1 "A Christmas Carol" scoff
4 Insta posts
8 Discomfit
13 County seat of Hawaii County
14 Home of the Mighty Five national parks
15 Bundled software collection
16 Disapproving sounds
17 Plumbing part
18 Play a banjo
19 "Well, not quite ... "
22 Well-mannered
23 IRS form expert
24 Catchy part of a song
27 Book part
28 "The gall!"
30 Persona non __
32 Worked for
33 Compass rose dir.
36 Portuguese greeting
37 Sch. in the smallest U.S. state
38 Some SAT takers
39 Excuses
41 Fashion
43 Move to the country?
45 Scope
49 Small whirlpool
50 Murmur
51 Smooth and suave
52 Go to great lengths, or what this puzzle's circled letters do?
55 Share one's thoughts
57 Financing figs.
58 Skirt feature
59 Sweet, in Italian
60 "Bro!"
61 Goes out with
62 Stella who founded an acting school in New York City
63 Short railroad branch
64 Fabric store meas.

Down
1 Diagonal mover in chess
2 High-pH substance
3 In charge of Thanksgiving dinner, say
4 Butterflies-to-be
5 "Yep"
6 Bot blocker
7 Tibetan people
8 Exec's helper
9 Mispronounce horrendously, as a name
10 Shock jock's sound effects
11 "The Simpsons" disco guy
12 Tailored edge
13 Part of an encrypted URL
20 Anti-inflammatory choice
21 Restaurant
25 Finito
26 "Comfortable. Confident." shoe brand
28 Elena Rybakina's org.
29 Finger painting?
31 Cultural territory in France's Grand Est region
33 Realtor's success
34 Made it home quickly?
35 Image on Dutch Bros coffee cups
37 Sporty truck, briefly
40 "Cowboy Carter" icon
41 Grab before anyone else can
42 Diplomatic mission
44 Migratory people
46 Helped (out)
47 Concave belly buttons
48 Tries, as patience
51 Auto racing family name
53 Swerve
54 Rawalpindi language
55 "Ghost" psychic __ Mae Brown
56 Okra or orca unit

H	U	D	S	O	N	■	I	B	E	X	■	S	T	Y
O	N	E	T	W	O	■	N	I	N	E	■	I	O	U
V	I	N	Y	L	R	E	C	O	R	D	■	T	O	M
E	V	I	L	S	■	R	A	M	I	■	E	S	T	■
R	A	R	E	■	I	N	S	E	C	T	B	I	T	E
S	C	O	R	E	D	■	■	■	H	O	O	D	O	O
■	■	■	■	N	E	E	D	S	■	P	O	L	O	S
■	L	O	T	T	E	R	Y	T	I	C	K	E	T	■
T	E	R	R	I	■	G	E	E	N	A	■	■	■	■
E	G	G	E	R	S	■	■	■	C	T	S	C	A	N
T	R	A	V	E	L	I	T	C	H	■	L	I	V	E
■	A	N	I	■	I	D	I	D	■	O	A	S	I	S
W	I	I	■	S	C	R	A	T	C	H	T	H	A	T
A	S	S	■	H	E	I	R	■	C	H	E	E	T	O
G	E	M	■	O	S	S	A	■	S	I	S	T	E	R

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

(C) 2026 Tribune Media Services

Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Up 136.46 52,319.20

Business

Nasdaq Comp. Up 393.58 26,213.72

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil tumbles

Oil prices ended June and the second quarter lower amid market relief about the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. US crude settled at $69.50 a barrel, down 31% from the end of March for its biggest quarterly decline since 2020. Brent ended at $72.92, down 39%.

Court clash

The Supreme Court agreed to hear Apple's bid to escape being found in contempt in its fight with Fortnite maker Epic Games after the iPhone maker was deemed in violation of an order mandating big changes to its App Store.

No worries

Paramount Skydance said it was confident that its proposed $81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery didn't pose any antitrust concerns in the UK, after the government said it was leaning toward intervening.

Ford recall

Ford is recalling 741,000 vehicles, including Navigators, Expeditions and F-150s, over a transmission defect that can damage the parking system.

'Safe' option

The Food and Drug Administration allowed Philip Morris to market its Zyn nicotine pouches as less harmful than cigarettes.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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RIGHT HOOK VS. ABC

Watchdog calls for 'lefty network' license nix

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

A conservative media watchdog is urging the Federal Communications Commission not to renew ABC's licenses, accusing the broadcaster of partisan bias as its lucrative TV rights are up in the air.

The Media Research Center, or MRC, accused ABC of electioneering, refusing to cover critical issues, excusing political violence and spreading misinformation in a Monday filing obtained by The Post.

"We finally have an FCC willing to hold Disney and ABC accountable. Broadcast licenses are a privilege, not an entitlement. In exchange for free use of the public airwaves, broadcasters agree to serve the public interest," MRC President David Bozell told The Post.

"If ABC wants to operate like a partisan cable network, it should give up the benefits reserved for broadcast licensees. No one is above the law, and ABC should not have its broadcast licenses renewed."

Pressure to pull the plug

THE VIEW
THE VIEW
abc

A conservative media-watcher is asking Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr (left) not to renew ABC's licenses. The Media Research Center claims that ABC operates "like a partisan," left-wing cable network, with many of its stars — like Jimmy Kimmel (inset) and the hosts of "The View" (below) — excusing political violence and spreading woke misinformation.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ABC:

- Downplayed The Post's Hunter Biden laptop coverage
- "The View" hosts refused to interview Republicans
- Pandered to Democrats, especially Kamala Harris

Getty Images

'Panders to Dems'

The Center for American Rights, another conservative watchdog, was also expected to file a petition with the FCC urging it to strike down ABC's licenses, according to Politico.

The FCC has been reviewing eight of Disney's broadcast licenses — including ABC channels in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago — after Chairman Brendan Carr initiated a renewal process a year early, accusing the network of failing to cooperate with a probe into its diversity, equity and inclusion policies.

"Broadcast licenses are not sacred cows," a spokesperson for the FCC told The Post. "When a broadcaster files an application to renew their FCC licenses, Congress has tasked the FCC with determining whether the broadcaster has served the public interest. That is exactly what the FCC will do here."

ABC has blasted the early license review, saying it serves "no legitimate purpose" and is an "effort to suppress speech under the guise of bureaucratic process."

It also launched a campaign urging ABC News viewers to support its broadcast license renewals and sign a petition stating that "The View" qualifies as a news interview program, amid a separate FCC investigation into the daytime talk show.

But Carr has a history of picking up petitions from conservative media watchdogs, that have filed numerous complaints against traditional media organizations.

In its new petition, the MRC claimed ABC has broadly pandered to the Democratic party, with mostly positive news coverage of former Vice President Kamala Harris compared with broadly negative coverage of President Trump during the 2024 presidential campaign.

The vast majority of guests on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" were aligned with the political left, MRC said. Also, several hosts of "The View" refused to interview Republicans including Trump while hosting Dems like former President Joe Biden, the filing alleged.

It accused ABC of "media blackouts" and downplaying reports including The Post's bombshell coverage of Hunter Biden's laptop and the Heritage Foundation's report on Biden's autopen use.

The FCC launched its review of ABC's licenses amid a heated feud between Trump and Kimmel, after Kimmel joked that First Lady Melania Trump had a "glow like an expectant widow" following two assassination attempts on the president.

ABC didn't respond to a request for comment.

therzlich@nypost.com

7M open jobs, but no feverish hiring

US job openings edged up to a two-year high in May, but subdued hiring soured consumers' perceptions of the labor market.

Job openings, a measure of labor demand, had increased 9,000 to 7.594 million by the last day of May, the highest level since May 2024, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Economists said the mixed reports Tuesday suggested the labor market remained stable, despite strong gains in recent months. They said there was no indication that the US-Israeli war with Iran had materially impacted the labor market, and many viewed downside risks from the conflict as greatly diminished by a fragile ceasefire, which would allow the Federal Reserve more scope to focus on fighting inflation.

There were 1.04 jobs for every unemployed person in May, little changed from April, but up from 1.01 a year ago.

"The labor market continues to show signs of stabilization," said Matthew Martin, a senior US economist at Oxford Economics. "For Fed officials, this means their attention will stay focused on the inflation mandate and ensuring price stability."

Reuters

SEC chief rips into lefty Mam

Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Paul Atkins ripped Mayor Mamdani's progressive agenda Tuesday, warning that New York's leaders are "beginning to speak the language of control rather than of freedom."

President Trump's Wall Street cop didn't name the Democratic Socialist mayor in his keynote address, but left little doubt about his target as he framed the city's direction as a betrayal of principles that built American capitalism as the US prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday this weekend.

"Just step outside, where leaders entrusted to govern this great city that built American commerce are beginning to speak the language of control rather than of freedom to deliver on campaign promises that would undermine the very foundation that has made this nation great," Atkins (right) told a meeting of the Economic Club of New York.

Atkins waded into the New York political debate at a time when some financial firms are considering relocating jobs out of Manhattan in a bid to escape the hard-left mayor's tax-and-spend agenda.

Atkins' broadside marked a rare foray into city politics for an SEC chairman.

A rep for Mamdani didn't respond for comment.

James Franey

Waiting at the Gates

Buffett delaying foundation boo$t over Epstein

By ARIEL ZILBER

Wary of a financial taint

Warren Buffett (left) is holding off making his annual multibillion-dollar donation to Bill Gates' Gates Foundation until after a probe about the foundation's ties to Jeffrey Epstein concludes.

Jack Forbes / NY Post Design

Warren Buffett is withholding his annual multibillion-dollar donation to the Gates Foundation for the first time in two decades as he waits for the charity to complete an internal review of its past ties to late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, according to a report.

The 95-year-old Berkshire Hathaway chairman is delaying his customary summer gift of Berkshire shares until later this year — potentially until Thanksgiving — while awaiting the findings of the review, sources told The Wall Street Journal.

The move marks the first interruption in Buffett's annual giving to the Gates Foundation since he began donating Berkshire stock in 2006 as part of what he called his "lifetime" philanthropic pledge.

Buffett's decision points to the growing strain in his once-close relationship with Gates, which has cooled in recent months amid renewed scrutiny of the Microsoft cofounder's ties to Epstein.

The Gates Foundation has hired law firm WilmerHale to conduct an outside review of its past contacts with Epstein, with findings expected later this summer.

Buffett and his associates have been in contact with Gates Foundation leadership, including CEO Mark Suzman, to learn more about the foundation's connections to Epstein and the status of the review, according to the Journal.

Buffett has donated around $48 billion to the Gates Foundation, making it the largest beneficiary of his philanthropy.

Buffett's hesitation comes as Gates faces heightened scrutiny over his yearslong relationship with Epstein after the Justice Department released additional Epstein-related files this year.

Gates has acknowledged repeatedly meeting Epstein after the financier's 2008 conviction, saying the relationship was driven by his belief that Epstein could help attract billions of dollars for global health causes.

The Gates Foundation has said it never made financial payments to Epstein and never pursued a formal collaboration with him.

Gates and Buffett didn't respond to requests for comment.

Nike down 4% on China

Nike recorded another sales decline in the latest quarter as it continued to hit hurdles with weakness in China.

Shares slumped more than 4% in after-hours trading.

The sneakers and apparel giant said Tuesday the results were in line with its expectations, despite facing what it called an increasingly challenging operating environment.

"While we continue to face top-line headwinds, we're encouraged by progress in performance product and are focused on consistent execution, improved profitability and scaling our wins to realize our full potential," CEO Elliott Hill said.

Nike has been working through a turnaround plan under Hill.

Fourth-quarter revenue ticked down 1% to $10.97 billion but still beat analysts' estimates. Sales in China slid 12%.

Dow Jones

Aid eyed amid beef grief

The Trump administration is prepping a financial lifeline for smaller meatpackers struggling with dwindling cattle supplies, which have sent beef prices surging.

The Agriculture Department plans to pledge up to $500 million in payments for small- and medium-size meatpacking companies. The money would be distributed to beef plants that keep their processing volumes at a certain level.

The funding excludes the four largest beef processors in the US: Tyson Foods, JBS, Cargill and National Beef.

The planned aid is the administration's latest attempt to curb record-high beef prices. Trump has directed top advisers to find solutions, and the Justice Department launched a criminal probe into the largest US meatpackers. *Dow Jones*

Roblox chipped on ads

Ads on the wildly popular video game platform Roblox enticed kids to try caffeinated potato chips, and they targeted children as young as age 5, a consumer watchdog group said.

The controversial online gaming company, which has been probed by half a dozen states over child safety issues, featured ads for Banger chips as recently as Friday in a video game called "Obby but You're on a Bike," Truth in Advertising said Monday.

Serving up ads about food and beverage products to children under age 13 violates Roblox's own policy, which was implemented in May, and the Banger chips ads were immediately taken down by the $4.9 billion firm, the watchdog said.

But thousands of children may have seen the ad before the takedown — "Obby but You're on a Bike," which has the Roblox's lowest maturity rating, has drawn 2 billion visits, according to Truth in Advertising.

Roblox said it's implemented a new "brand integration hub" where creators must register partnerships with Roblox before launching a campaign and have to submit their campaigns to the game company for pre-approval.

San Francisco-based Banger didn't respond to a request for comment.

Lisa Fickenscher

Meta loss in kid suit

A federal judge rejected Meta Platforms' bid to dismiss a lawsuit by 29 state attorneys general accusing it of designing Facebook and Instagram to addict children and knowingly concealing the harm from the public.

District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in Oakland, Calif., denied Meta's motion to dismiss claims based on deception, unfair practices and violations of the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

The trial is scheduled for Aug. 18.

Reuters

KEANU REEVES
Helped thief get mercy..

Director jailed in ’Flix scam

A Hollywood director was sentenced to 30 months in prison for stealing $11 million from Netflix — and using the riches to splurge on Rolls-Royces and stays at five-star hotels.

Carl Rinsch, 48, who directed a handful of sci-fi and action films, on Monday received a prison term half the length of what prosecutors had sought after the judge appeared to be swayed by star-studded testimony from character witnesses including actor Keanu Reeves.

Manhattan federal Judge Jed Rakoff ordered Rinsch to repay Netflix the $11 million he was convicted in December of stealing from the streaming giant, as well as to participate in an outpatient mental-health program and halt narcotics use.

“I believe circumstances arose where his mental health was compromised by misuse of medications and perhaps other issues, which amplified the acts of his self-sabotage and grandiosity,” Reeves wrote in a letter.

Taylor Herzlich

Muir rules nightly news

David Muir remains king of evening network news, while NBC’s Tom Llamas continues to gain ground on the perennial ratings leader.

ABC’s “World News Tonight” finished June as the nation’s most-watched nightly newscast, averaging 7.82 million viewers and narrowly edging out NBC’s “Nightly News” in the advertiser-coveted 25-to-54 demographic, according to Nielsen figures. *Ariel Zilber*

Flag on the play

JPMorgan, helmed by Jamie Dimon (inset), is appealing a judgment by FINRA that the company pay broker Brent Bodner $4.25 million because the banking behemoth sacked him after he used company money to pay for a deli platter at a gathering during Super Bowl weekend.

Getty Images/Adobe Stock

JPM bid to slice $4M ‘deli’ slap

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

JPMorgan filed a motion to overturn a Wall Street regulator’s $4.25 million award to a broker who claims he was wrongly fired for ordering a deli platter on the company dime, a case that has prompted other banks to try to crack down on jumbo judgments.

In a late Monday filing in a California federal court, JPMorgan took aim at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, arguing longtime wealth adviser Brent Bodner took advantage of the nongovernmental industry watchdog’s rules to secure an exorbitant payout over the spendy salami incident.

“FINRA exists to promote trust and confidence in the securities industry,” but its award to Bodner “punished” JPMorgan “for truthfully advising the investing community about Bodner’s misconduct, while rewarding a wrongdoer,” the bank said, adding that it was a “lawless award.”

Banks fight back

Big banks have been eager to rein in FINRA’s ability to award massive punitive sums, especially after it handed out several multimillion-dollar rewards, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Just this year, appeals courts have upheld FINRA — which rules on disputes among advisers, brokers, investors and institutions — in a $133 million award against Stifel Financial and a $92 million one against UBS.

In March, FINRA asked for public comment on its methods for deciding arbitration cases. Financial powerhouses like Charles Schwab and LPL Financial, as well as Sullivan & Cromwell, the law firm representing Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan, quickly chimed in, according to the Journal.

FINRA sides with institutions the majority of the time, with only 3% of all cases since 1989 resulting in punitive awards, according to its own data.

JPMorgan fired Bodner in May 2024 over a catered gathering he hosted at his Beverly Hills, Calif., home during Super Bowl weekend, saying he improperly used company money to pay for a $642.50 deli platter.

Bodner’s lawyer argued JPMorgan mischaracterized the gathering as a “Super Bowl party” when it was actually a preapproved business meeting.

CEO Jamie Dimon’s JPMorgan is also looking to change the official reason for Bodner’s exit back to “for cause” from “voluntary.”

U.S. AI ‘BLOCK’ UNDONE

Anthropic ‘freed’

By JAMES FRANEY

The Trump administration lifted emergency export controls on Anthropic’s most advanced artificial intelligence models Tuesday night, according to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick — abruptly ending a bitter standoff that disrupted the global tech sector.

“Anthropic has agreed to proactively detect and address security risks associated with the models; to work diligently with the US government on protocols and standards and releases for Mythos, Fable, and future models; and to inform the U.S. government of any malicious activity,” Lutnick wrote in a letter obtained by The Post.

“The controls . . . are withdrawn. A license is no longer required for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer, including deemed export or deemed reexport, of the Mythos or Fable models,” he added.

The move canceled a June 12 White House directive that banned all foreign nationals from accessing Anthropic’s flagship Fable 5 and Mythos 5 systems.

“We’ve received notice that the Department of Commerce has lifted export controls on Claude Fable 5 and Mythos 5,” Anthropic wrote on X. “We’ll begin restoring access tomorrow, and will share an update soon.”

The government previously said it disabled the cutting-edge software worldwide because the San Francisco-based start-up could not reliably filter out foreign users in real time.

The sudden policy reversal follows intense corporate lobbying and back-channel negotiations between Anthropic executives and Lutnick.

The Post previously revealed those talks, noting President Trump shifted his stance after meeting Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei at the Group of Seven summit in France.

Tuesday’s rollback was poised to deliver immediate relief to the broader technology market. Enterprise clients faced significant operational bottlenecks during the nearly three-week blackout.

“Under President Trump’s leadership the United States is the undisputed winner in the AI race,” White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles wrote on X.

“My gratitude to companies across industries who continue to work closely with the White House to implement the President’s EO: ‘Promoting Advanced AI Innovation and Security.’ ”

The Post has approached Anthropic, the White House and the Department of Commerce for comment.

Gold, silver losing $hine

Gold was little changed Tuesday but finished the quarter down 13%, its worst three-month stretch since 2013, pressured by expectations of Federal Reserve rate hikes.

The precious metal lost $624.70 per troy ounce to end at $4,022.90, with most of the losses coming in June.

Silver dropped 20% to $59.48 a troy ounce in the quarter, its worst since the first quarter of 2020. *Dow Jones*

EMPLOYMENT

TECH CAREERS

Lead Software Engineer @ Mastercard Mobile Transactions Solutions Inc (New York, NY) F/T Prvde Archtctre Sltns cmplx prblms hvng dpndncy acrs dmns nd srvcs nd drve Dmn Archtctre Rdmp. Prfrm cde-rvws, cde scng, nd estblsh strnd dvlpmnt prctcs to dlvr hgh-qlty dsgns to mt the bsns rqremnts/enhncemnts. Reqs a Bchlr's deg, or frgn equiv, in Apld Cmptr Sci, Cmptr/Elctrcl/Elctrnc/Mchncl/Indstrl Engg, Mgt Info Systms, Biz Admn, or rltd, & 8 yrs of prog resp exp in job offrd, or as a Sftwre Engg, IT Engg, Sftwre Dvlpr, Tech Ld, Prgmr Anlyst or rltd. Qlfyng exp mst inclde 5 yrs of exp w/ ech of the flwng: Java; JavaScript; Spring/Springboot; JPA; SQL; Cloud; REST API. Rte of pay: $189,592 - 277,000 / yr. Tlcmmtng nd/or wfh may be prmsbl prsnt to cmpny plcies. Snd resume to Jeff Bannon, Jeff.Bannon@mastercard.com, 2200 Mastercard Blvd, O'Fallon, MO 63368. Ref MC03-2026.

PROFESSIONAL

Manager, Product Management @ Mastercard International Incorporated (New York, NY) F/T Ass. curnt mkting trgtng and msremnt capblits vs. bst-in-cls indstry sltns to idntfy opptunties for Mastercard to drve frthr diffrntiatn at scle, evaltng crnt trgtng capblits, supprtng assmnts fr bndlng exstng intrnl offrngs, idntfyng prtnrsps to enble actvtns of emrgng clnt sgmnts, etc. Incrse the relvnce, constncy, & adpton of curent targtng & msremnt methodlogs ensurng global stndrds. Reqs a Master's deg, or frgn equiv, in Mgt Info Systms, Biz Anlytcs, Comptr Sci or rltd, & 3 yrs of progressively responsible experience in job offrd, or as a Prdct Mgr, Biz Dev. Mgr, Acc Suprvsr or rltd. Qlfyn exp must include at lst 3 yrs of exp w/ each of the fllwn: Data and analytics such as targeting, segmentation and measurement; Media such as strategy planning, and activation; Product management; Python, SAS, SQL; Fintech; Media agency. Rt of pay: $199,410.00- $221,000.00 / yr. Telecomutng &/or wfh may be pemisbl pursnt to comp polics. Send resume to Jordan Tenedora, Jordan.Tenedora@mastercard.com, 150 5th Avenue, NY, NY 10011. Ref MC38-2025B.

Index Sales, Relationship Manager @ Bloomberg LP (New York, NY) F/T. Sek wdr adptn & incrsd pntrtn of Blmbrg Indx prdcts in ky clnt sgmnts. Pstn reqs a Bchlr's deg or the frgn equiv in Fnanc, Bsnss Admnstrtn, or rltd & 2 yrs of exp in the jb offrd or as a Sals Rep, or rltd. In liu of a Bchlr's deg, emplyr wil acpt 2 adtnl yrs of exp in the jb ofrd or as a Sls Repr, or rltd. Mst hve 2 yrs of exp in ech of the flwng skls: Identifying new prospects; Building and maintaining client relationships; Buy-side experience; Financial engineering or structuring; and, Fixed income, commodity, currency and equity indices. Emplyr wil acpt any sutbl cmbntn of edu, trng or exp. Dmstc trvl rqrd 20% of the tm. Intrntnl trvl rqrd 2% of the tm. Rte of pay: $190,000-$270,000/ yr. Snd resume to Bloomberg HR at recruit2@bloomberg.net. Indicate (B114-2026). EOE.

SALES

Sales Specialist at Bloomberg LP (New York, NY) F/T. Drv the adptn of dgtl prdcts acrss the AMER rgn, pstning sltns to clnts, mxmzng rvnu, and spprtng thr dgtl trnsfrmtn gols. Pstn rqurs a Bchlr's deg or the frgn eqvlnt in Bsnss, Ecnmcs, or rltd & 2 yrs of exp in sellng wthn the fnancl mrkts, in the jb offrd, or as a Sls Spclst, Accnt Mngr, or rltd. Mst hv 1 yr of exp in ech of the flwng sklls: Digital transformation and automation; Consultative sales; Competitive lead generation, prospecting, business development, and closing sales; Managing multiple complex client engagements concurrently; Building and maintaining client relationships both externally and internally; Selling solutions in the ML/NLP and API space; and Reporting. Rte of pay: $180,000 - $255,000/ yr. Snd rsm to Bloomberg HR at recruit2@bloomberg.net. Indct (B57-2026). EOE.

TECH CAREERS

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FINANCIAL

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PROFESSIONAL

Market Research Analyst sought by ADVANCED FOOD INTERNATIONAL, INC. in Maspeth, NY. Duties: research & analyze U.S. mkt conditions for imported South Asian & halal food products, incl customer demand, competitor activity, pricing trends, & distribution opportunities; gather & evaluate mkt data to determine product sales potential; identify target customer segments, retail accounts, & wholesale distribution channels; dvlp bus. relationships w/ suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, & retailers to support expansion of product lines & mkt reach; coordinate communications between overseas suppliers & U.S.-based distributors/customers regarding product availability, sales opportunities, & delivery logistics; prep reports & recommendations regarding product selection, mkt-entry opportunities, promotional strategy, & competitive positioning; dvlp sales & promotional materials & assist mgmt in implmtg mktg strategies for ethnic/specialty food mkts. Req: Bachelor's deg in Mktg, Mkt Research, Bus. Admin, Mgmt, Int'l Bus., or rltd field & 24 mos exp as Mkt Research Analyst, Mktg Specialist, or rltd occupation. Salary: $61,797/yr. Mail Resume to Vice President, Malgorzata Siemiatkowska, Advanced Food International, Inc., 5605 55th Dr., Maspeth, NY 11378.

Apps Dvlpmnt Tech Ld Analyst for Citibank, N.A. in NY, NY, to ensure appropriate integration of functions to meet goals & identify & define nec sys enhancements for deploying new products & process improvements. Reqs: Bach, or foreign equiv in Comp Eng'g, CS or rel field, & 6 yrs exp in job offered or rel IT occupation dvlpg scalable, robust, & testable apps for critical & time-sensitive regulatory finc'l models. 6 yrs exp must incl: Engaging w/ Bus. & Markets stakeholders & understanding market nuances; Designing & dvlpg Apps using advanced Java, Spring Boot, Microservices, Python, SQL, & Big Data technologies (e.g., Hive, Sqoop, Impala, HDFS, Spark), w/ focus on multithreaded & containerized apps, combined w/ adherence to core sftwr design principles such as SOLID, DRY, & various design patterns. 40 hrs./wk. Sal range: $184,000-$240,000/yr. Citi offerings may incl discretionary incentive & retention awards for eligible employees. Citi also offers competitive benefits. See citibenefits.com. Applicants submit resumes at https://jobs.citi.com/. Ref Job ID# 26960049. EOE.

Regulatory Capital Risk Sr. Lead Anlyst for Citibank, N.A. in NY, NY, to dvlp risk mgmnt strategy for Fin'c function w/ focus on robust risk challenges & mitigations for capital. Ensure adherence to risk-related regulatory req'mnts, upholding highest standards of compliance. Telecomm'g/hybrid work sched may be permitted w/in commutable distance from worksite in accordance w/ Citi policies & protocols. Reqs: Bach, or foreign equiv, in Acctg, Fin'c, or rel field, & 10 yrs exp in job offered or rel fin'c occupation reviewing & challenging RRP-rel methodologies, process, governance & results. 10 yrs exp must incl: Performing foundational risk mgmnt to review & challenge capital planning activities; Analyzing reasonableness & completeness of stress testing assumptions, methodologies & results. 40 hrs./wk. Sal range: $228,300-$246,300/yr. Citi offerings may incl discretionary incentive & retention awards for eligible employees. Citi also offers competitive benefits. See citibenefits.com. Applicants submit resumes at https://jobs.citi.com/. Ref Job ID# 26951985. EOE.

PROFESSIONAL

Associate w/Cerberus Capital Management, L.P. (NY, NY). Prfrm strctring, modelng, & collateral analysis fr RMBS transactions. Analyze invstmnt strats, data analytics, & proprietary models to forecast loan performance, structure deals, & enable trading activity across RMBS & other structured products. Req Bach deg or frgn equiv in Finance, Real Estate, or rel fld + 2 yr exp in Residential Mortgage-Backed Security (RMBS) modeling & structuring. Exp must incl: Intex Dealmaker; Intex Calc; Python; SQL; VBA; & modeling & structuring, & collateral analysis for RMBS transactions. $195,000-$200,000/yr. Send resume to Attn: HR, Job Ref# ASC430332, Cerberus Capital Management, L.P., 875 Third Ave, NY, NY 10022, or via email: recruiting@cerberus.com Job Ref #ASC430332.

Manager, Anaplan for Chanel, Inc. (NY, NY). Responsible for overseeing the performance, standards, & strategic directn of the solutn architecture. Min. Req: Bach deg in Bus Admin, Info Systems, or rel field & 3 yrs of exp in Anaplan system design, architecture & implementatn. 3 or 4 yr bach deg accepted. Anaplan Model Builder Certification (e.g., Level 2, Anaplan Way, Profess'l Model Builder, Level 3, Solution Architect, or Certified master Anaplanner). Sal: $186,056/yr.Send resumes to Resumes@chanel.com. Ref. job code "MA2026"

Inspections Engineer. New Hyde Park, NY. Local travel to client sites (commuting distance of office) reqd. Perform daily field inspections of construction work done, incl structural steel welding inspections & non-destructive testing & creating inspection reports for clients that incl MTA, NYC Transit, NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation & the Dormitory Authority of the City of NY. Prep & compile comprehensive Inspector Field Reports documenting daily routine inspections for various construction activities. Reqmts: Master's deg in Industrial Engg, Systms Engg, Civil Engg or a closely rltd field. Will accept a Bachelor's deg & 5 yrs of exp in Project Mgmt/Coord'n. Will accept U.S. equiv of the degs. ($142,750/yr.) Respond to Attn.: HR (Ref. 1986B), M&J Engineering, P.C., 2003 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

Analytics Program Lead at National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA. (Parsippany, NJ): Drive best-in-class data engineering by designing, building, and maintaining cloud native big data solutions. Lead a team of data engineers and managers, as well as drive solutions as a principal data engineer. Collaborate with stakeholders to assess their needs and find innovative data solutions. Work with technology, programming, application delivery, and tool design and development; project management in software development; and Agile project execution. Req's Bachelor's deg. + 5 yrs exp. 3 of the 5 years of required experience must include experience with project management in software development and Agile project execution. Salary range: $189,592.00-$189,592.00/ year. Please apply at: https://tinyurl.com/46yz6v7n

Asst Dir-Experience Designer at Moody's Analytics, Inc. (New York, NY). Work in a multidisciplinary environment, & in a collaborative fashion, on user exp design activities throughout the software development lifecycle, often w/ numerous design initiatives occurring concurrently. Reqts: Bachelor's deg or foreign equiv in Graphic Design, Human Comp Interaction, Info Tech or closely reld + at least 3 yrs of exp designing user interfaces & user experiences. Telecommuting Permitted (100% telecommuting position). Anticipated hiring base salary range: $131,997 to $192,300/yr. To apply, please submit resume through careers.moodys.com or via e-mail at hrbox28@moodys.com. Please refer to Job Ref. 13448.

Associate, Data Privacy & Security (Greenberg Traurig, LLP, NY, NY): Advise & represent clients on complex matters involving int'l data privacy, cybersecurity, IP, technology law & emerging AI regs. Hybrid work sched permitted. Must work 3 times/wk from office in NY, NY. Reqmts: JD, LLM or foreign equiv deg + 3 yrs of exp in position offd or rltd occupation as an attorney in the U.S. or abroad, advising & representing clients on matters rltd to European & U.S. data privacy & cybersecurity laws & IP laws. Must have 3 yrs of exp: working w/ both EU and U.S. regulatory frameworks, incl GDPR & U.S. federal & state privacy laws, to provide comprehensive legal solutions; drafting & reviewing IP/ s/ware license agreements, assignment agreements, technology licensing agreements, IT svcs agreements, outsourcing agreements, data processing agreements, master svcs agreements & privacy compliance rltd docs, procedures & policies; advising clients on implications for EU-US data transfers & regulatory reqmts; advising clients regarding data privacy & cybersecurity laws in the use of cloud svcs. Must be admitted to practice law in NY. Salary: $265,000/yr. Apply Online: https://www.gtlaw.com/en/careers. Ref. Job # JR202601039.

TECH CAREERS

S&P OpCo LLC seeks a Lead Software Engineer in New York, NY to plan, prepare, & develop software for Indices platforms. Telecommuting permitted from anywhere within the U.S. REQ: Bach in Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Info Sys, or rel IT field plus 5 years of exp. dev. concurrent & distributed systems. The anticipated base salary range for this position is $191,413 to $206,350. Final base salary for this role will be based on the individual's geographic location, as well as experience level, skill set, training, licenses & certifications. In addition to base compensation, this role is eligible for an annual incentive plan. This role is eligible to receive additional S&P Global benefits. For more information on the benefits we provide to our employees, please see: https://spgbenefits.com/benefit-summaries/us. Resume to PeopleMovementSupport@spglobal.com, ref 329683 (Lead Software Engineer).

Software Engineer - Collibra Inc. (NY, NY - option to work remotely from any location in US; 40 hrs/wk) Write clean, maintainable code using modern prgmg lang.s & frameworks (e.g., Java, Spring Boot, React). RQTS: BA or foreign equiv in CS, Info Systems, Systems Eng'g, or rel + 5 yrs exp in job or rel. Alt, ER will accept MA or foreign equiv + 3 yrs of exp. ER will accept pre-/post-MA exp. Must have 5 yrs (or 3 yrs w/ MA) exp w/: Dsgng & bldg lg-scale, modular monolith architectures using Java & Spring Boot, w/ strict domain separation & multi-module layering; Utilizing Spring ecosystem, incl Spring Data JPA, Spring Security, Spring Web, & transaction mgmt. Salary: $189,592 - $210,000/yr. Apply: https://www.collibra.com/company/careers#sub-menu-find-jobs & search for "Software Engineer (1785)". EOE

SW Engr, Flatiron Health, Inc., NY, NY. Req Bach + 1 yr exp, allows 100% telecommuting from anywhere w/in U.S. Annual pay range for this position is based on the primary location of the role, New York, NY, and is $163,401 to $210,038 per year. If you are applying to this role at a location that is not the primary location, keep in mind the salary range will vary & may fall outside of what is listed. Base pay offered may vary depending on job-related knowledge, skills, & exp. Annual bonus & equity may be provided as part of the compensation package, in addition to a full range of medical, financial, and/or other benefits, depending on the position offered. Apply at https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/opp-center/jobs/7979279 (Job ID:IM0015).

TECH CAREERS

NYSE Market (DE), Inc. seeks Machine Learning Eng'r in NY, NY, to dvlp & deploy ML models for structured & unstructured data, incl supervised, unsupervised, & generative tasks. Req'mts: Master's or foreign equiv in Bus. Intelligence, Data Analytics, Machine Learning (ML), or rel. field & 2 yrs of exp: building & deploying machine learning models; 1 yr of exp must incl: using GenAI/NLP stacks incl Hugging Face, OpenAI APIs, & LangChain; Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to work site. Offered salary is in range of $109,491 to $155,000/yr. 40 hrs/wk. Submit resume to recruitingresumes@ice.com & indicate job code YS03172026NYP in subject line.

ICE Mortgage Technology, Inc. seeks Product Manager, Data Sci Products in NY, NY, to work w/Research & Dvlpmt on app & product dvlpmt of fin'l tools. Req'mts: Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Quant Fin'ce, Data Sci or rel. field & 4 yrs of rel. exp: working w/data sci/softw product Mgmt. In alternative, bus. will accept Master's or foreign equiv in one of above listed fields & 2 yrs of exp w/above listed skills. Telecommuting &/or work from home may be permissible pursuant to company policies. When not telecommuting, must report to worksite. Offered salary is between $112,778.00 to $116,000/yr, 40hrs/wk. Submit resume to recruitingresumes@ice.com & indicate job code SR04132026NYP in subject line.

Palantir Foundry & AIP Developer @ Ontologize, Inc. Job Site: New York, NY; domestic travel up to 1x/month, max 4 days. $200k/year. Design/manage Palantir Foundry data pipelines; Build Foundry apps, dashboards & visualizations; Develop/deploy ML models & custom AIP functions. To apply, email: applications@ontologize.com.

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Dumpling Ninja LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/17/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Evan Fan Chen: 80 Smith St Unit 4, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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4th of July Early Deadlines for Classified

Publication Date	Ad Deadline
Fri. July 3rd - Mon. July 6th	Thurs. July 2 11:30AM

We will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, 2026

Enjoy Your Holiday!

NEW YORK POST

Rays 10, Royals 4

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	1	1	0	1	0	.334
Aranda 1b	3	1	2	1	2	0	.290
Caminero 3b	5	1	2	3	0	0	.294
Vilade rf	3	2	1	1	1	1	.278
DeLuca cf	3	2	1	0	2	0	.264
Simpson lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.268
Williamson 2b	3	1	1	1	2	0	.237
Walls ss	3	1	0	1	2	0	.220
Fortes c	5	1	2	2	0	1	.257
Totals	**32**	**10**	**11**	**9**	**11**	**2**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	1	1	1	0	2	.251
Witt ss	4	2	3	3	0	0	.294
Caglianone dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Thomas cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.217
Massey 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.260
Perez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.201
Rave rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Loftin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Collins lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.231
Totals	**32**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**1**	**7**	

Tampa Bay	**006 022 000 —**	**10**	**11**	**0**
Kansas City	**102 000 010 —**	**4**	**6**	**1**

E: Loftin (6). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 8, Kansas City 2. **2B:** Collins (14), Thomas (8). **HR:** Caminero (23), off Cameron; Vilade (6), off Cameron; Jensen (12), off Jax; Witt (11), off Jax; Witt (12), off Sulser. **RBIs:** Aranda (58), Caminero 3 (52), Vilade (28), Williamson (21), Fortes 2 (17), Walls (19), Jensen (46), Witt 3 (36). **CS:** Simpson (10), Díaz (1). **S:** Simpson. **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 4 (Fortes 2, Walls, DeLuca); Kansas City 1 (Rave). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 4 for 8; Kansas City 1 for 5. **DP:** Tampa Bay 1 (Walls, Aranda); Kansas City 2 (Loftin, Massey, Perez; Loftin, Massey, Perez).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jax, W, 4-5	6.0	5	3	3	0	5	71	3.45
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	21	0.87
Sulser	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	15	5.45
Kimbrel	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5.09

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cameron, L, 4-6	3.2	9	6	6	3	0	86	4.95
Seabold	0.2	0	2	1	2	0	18	5.25
Cerantola	1.1	1	2	2	6	0	43	10.13
Way	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.60
Cruz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	5.47
Erceg	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	13	5.23

T: 2:43. **A:** 15,014 (38,427).

Astros 6, Twins 4

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	2	1	0	0	1	0	.284
Keaschall ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Lee 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Clemens 2b	4	2	2	0	0	1	.241
Bell dh	4	0	1	1	0	0	.243
Lewis 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.216
Caratini c	3	0	0	1	0	1	.237
Kreidler cf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.287
Gray ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Jackson ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.311
Martin rf-lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Totals	**32**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	3	1	0	1	1	1	.233
Alvarez lf	4	1	3	4	0	1	.314
B.Matthews lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.193
I.Paredes dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Walker 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.238
Smith rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.222
Trammell cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.274
Meyers cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.205
Diaz c	3	1	1	1	0	0	.246
Allen ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.243
Delgado 3b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.286
Totals	**32**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**9**	

Minnesota	**300 010 000 —**	**4**	**6**	**0**
Houston	**000 600 00x —**	**6**	**8**	**1**

E: Alvarez (2). **LOB:** Minnesota 4, Houston 6. **2B:** Bell (17), Delgado (1). **HR:** Alvarez (26), off Ryan. **RBIs:** Caratini (33), Kreidler 2 (23), Bell (54), Diaz (17), Altuve (22), Alvarez 4 (60). **CS:** Lee (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 3 (Lewis, Gray 2); Houston 3 (Trammell, Smith, I.Paredes). **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 4; Houston 2 for 9. **Runners moved up:** Bell, Altuve.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ryan, L, 5-5	4.0	6	6	6	3	5	91	3.61
Orze	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	23	5.08
Raya	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	25	4.50

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burrows, W, 4-8	5.0	6	4	4	2	3	90	5.58
De Los Santos, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	4.78
Okert, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.41
King, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.19
Hader, S, 8-8	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0.69

T: 2:32. **A:** 26,848 (41,000).

Cubs 9, Padres 7

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis 2b	5	2	2	2	0	1	.284
Taylor lf-rf	4	0	2	0	1	1	.329
Machado 3b	5	1	2	2	0	1	.189
Andujar dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.258
Cronenworth ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.139
France 1b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.267
Merrill cf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.213
Bogaerts ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.234
Bowen rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.121
Sheets ph-lf	2	1	1	3	0	0	.232
Fermin c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.148
Totals	**39**	**7**	**13**	**7**	**2**	**4**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	2	1	1	1	1	.284
Bregman 3b	3	1	1	3	2	0	.243
Suzuki dh	5	1	2	0	0	0	.268
Kelly c	4	0	2	1	1	0	.281
Busch 1b	4	1	1	1	1	1	.233
Hoerner 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.243
Happ lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.221
Swanson ss	4	2	3	3	0	0	.203
Alcantara rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.182
Conforto ph-rf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.231
Dean rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.500
Totals	**36**	**9**	**13**	**9**	**6**	**5**	

San Diego	**102 000 040 —**	**7**	**13**	**1**
Chicago	**140 031 00x —**	**9**	**13**	**0**

E: Tatis (6). **LOB:** San Diego 8, Chicago 9. **2B:** Fermin (6). **HR:** Tatis (4), off Boyd; Machado (16), off Boyd; Sheets (14), off Assad; Tatis (5), off Assad; Swanson (12), off Sears; Bregman (7), off Sears; Busch (10), off Sears; Swanson (13), off Marinaccio; Crow-Armstrong (18), off Marinaccio. **RBIs:** Tatis 2 (33), Machado 2 (46), Sheets 3 (38), Kelly (30), Swanson 3 (49), Bregman 3 (30), Busch (46), Crow-Armstrong (46). **CS:** Kelly (1). . **RISP:** San Diego 2 for 8; Chicago 2 for 9. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Swanson, Hoerner, Busch).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sears, L, 1-1	4.2	8	7	6	3	4	95	6.97
Marinaccio	1.2	3	2	2	3	1	50	4.93
Peralta	1.2	2	0	0	0	0	23	1.62

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd, W, 3-1	5.0	8	3	3	0	2	76	5.08
Assad	2.2	5	4	4	2	1	53	4.53
Ferguson, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	6.75
Rolison, S, 1-2	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.97

T: 3:07. **A:** 36,279 (41,363).

Marlins 14, Rockies 3

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks 1b	6	1	2	0	0	0	.280
Stowers dh	6	2	3	2	0	2	.235
Conine lf	5	1	4	2	1	0	.286
Edwards 2b	6	2	4	1	0	0	.304
Marsee cf	6	0	0	0	0	0	.189
Caissie rf	4	2	1	3	0	2	.239
Sanoja ss	5	3	3	3	0	0	.275
Mack c	4	1	1	2	0	1	.250
Navarreto ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jiménez 3b	4	2	3	1	1	0	.221
Totals	**47**	**14**	**21**	**14**	**2**	**5**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy rf	5	0	0	1	0	1	.299
Moniak lf	4	1	1	1	1	2	.260
Goodman c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.243
Fulford c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Rumfield 1b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.294
Carrigg cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.266
Freeman dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.273
Sullivan p	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Julien 2b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.229
Karros 3b	2	1	1	0	2	1	.258
Tovar ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.207
Totals	**31**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**6**	**12**	

Miami	**113 003 231 —**	**14**	**21**	**0**
Colorado	**100 000 101 —**	**3**	**5**	**2**

E: Carrigg (1), Rumfield (2). **LOB:** Miami 9, Colorado 8. **2B:** Conine (3), Edwards (13), Jiménez (4), Stowers (16), Rumfield (18), Karros (16), Tovar (16). **3B:** Stowers (3). **HR:** Sanoja (3), off Gordon; Mack (5), off Brebbia; Caissie (10), off Brebbia; Moniak (13), off Pérez. **RBIs:** Conine 2 (10), Jiménez (4), Sanoja 3 (32), Stowers 2 (34), Edwards (30), Mack 2 (21), Caissie 3 (46), Moniak (32), McCarthy (37), Tovar (27). **CS:** Carrigg (2). **RISP:** Miami 9 for 19; Colorado 1 for 13. **DP:** Colorado 2 (Rumfield, Tovar, Rumfield; Tovar, Rumfield).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez, W, 4-6	5.1	2	1	1	4	8	86	4.21
Bachar	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.00
Brzykcy	2.0	1	1	1	2	2	39	4.50
Gibson	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	20	6.06

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gordon, L, 0-2	5.0	9	5	5	0	4	74	6.69
Halvorsen	1.0	4	3	3	1	0	25	4.74
Brebbia	1.1	5	5	5	0	1	48	10.38
Sullivan	1.2	3	1	1	1	0	18	5.40

T: 3:00. **A:** 20,526 (50,144).

Dodgers 9, Athletics 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	0	1	0	1	0	.296
Pages cf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.271
Freeman 1b	4	2	2	0	1	0	.293
Betts ss	5	1	3	1	0	0	.244
Hernández lf	3	1	0	1	1	1	.275
Tucker rf	4	1	0	0	1	1	.239
Edman 3b	5	2	4	4	0	0	.395
Rojas 2b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.279
Rushing c	5	0	1	1	0	1	.245
Totals	**38**	**9**	**14**	**9**	**5**	**3**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bolte cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.287
Langeliers c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.263
Kurtz 1b	3	0	0	0	1	3	.276
Heim dh	4	0	1	1	0	2	.237
Meneses lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.143
Butler rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Thomas rf-lf	3	1	2	2	0	0	.238
Cortes ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.272
Muncy 3b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.235
Williams ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.303
Kuroda-Grauer 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.429
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**15**	

Los Angeles	**203 001 300 —**	**9**	**14**	**0**
Athletics	**100 000 200 —**	**3**	**7**	**1**

E: Williams (2). **LOB:** Los Angeles 9, Athletics 4. **2B:** Freeman (22), Betts (8), Muncy (7). **HR:** Edman (1), off Springs; Rojas (3), off Springs; Thomas (4), off Wrobleski. **RBIs:** Betts (28), Hernández (32), Edman 4 (8), Rojas 2 (15), Rushing (25), Heim (21), Thomas 2 (10). **SF:** Hernández, Rojas. **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 3 (Betts, Pages, Tucker); Athletics 1 (Kuroda-Grauer). **RISP:** Los Angeles 4 for 13; Athletics 0 for 2. **Runners moved up:** Tucker. **GIDP:** Rojas, Williams. **DP:** Los Angeles 1 (Betts, Rojas, Freeman); 1 (Williams, Kuroda-Grauer, Kurtz).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wrobleski, W, 10-2	7.0	7	3	3	0	11	110	2.80
Stewart	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	1.80
Mills	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	14	6.23

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Springs, L, 3-8	5.1	8	6	6	4	2	92	5.79
Alvarado	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	10	5.48
Hartlieb	3.0	6	3	3	1	1	52	5.19

T: 2:34. **A:** 12,387 (14,014).

Nationals 8, Red Sox 1

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood dh-rf	5	0	3	2	0	1	.263
Chaparro 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.156
García ph-1b	3	0	1	2	0	1	.280
Mead 3b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.223
Abrams ss	5	1	1	1	0	2	.273
Crews rf-cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.225
Young cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Tena ph-lf	1	1	1	0	1	0	.225
Ribalta p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Kent p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Lile lf-rf-lf	4	2	2	0	0	0	.251
Nuñez 2b	2	2	0	0	2	0	.232
Ruiz c	3	2	2	3	1	0	.285
Totals	**36**	**8**	**12**	**8**	**5**	**8**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.350
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.279
Abreu rf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.268
Contreras 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Monasterio 1b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Duran lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.196
Gonzalez dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.143
Durbin 3b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.232
Narváez c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Cheng ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.133
Totals	**31**	**1**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**13**	

Washington	**000 010 340 —**	**8**	**12**	**1**
Boston	**100 000 000 —**	**1**	**4**	**0**

E: Mead (6). **LOB:** Washington 6, Boston 3. **2B:** García (15), Ruiz (16), Wood (21), Seigler (5). **HR:** Abrams (18), off Kahnle. **RBIs:** Wood 2 (52), Ruiz 3 (33), García 2 (57), Abrams (60). **SB:** Mead (4), Contreras (2), Crews (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (Mead, Abrams, Ruiz, García); Boston 2 (Duran, Cheng). **RISP:** Washington 5 for 13; Boston 0 for 6.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cavalli, W, 5-4	7.0	1	1	0	0	13	100	3.69
Ribalta	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	18	3.70
Kent	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	4.38

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Early	4.0	3	0	0	2	5	61	3.44
Coulombe	0.2	2	1	1	1	0	14	4.58
Weissert, L, 0-2	1.2	1	2	2	1	1	28	4.18
Slaten	0.2	2	1	1	0	2	13	6.16
Kahnle	1.0	4	4	4	1	0	30	8.00
Watson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4.73

T: 2:58. **A:** 33,669 (37,755).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	12	7	.632	—
Liberty	12	8	.600	½
Indiana	11	8	.579	1
Washington	9	9	.500	2½
Toronto	9	10	.474	3
Chicago	6	13	.316	6
Connecticut	4	15	.211	8

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	15	4	.789	—
Las Vegas	14	5	.737	1
Golden State	13	7	.650	2½
Dallas	11	8	.579	4
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	6½
Portland	8	12	.400	7½
Phoenix	7	13	.350	8½
Seattle	5	15	.250	10½

Tuesday

Liberty 93, Las Vegas 85 (2026 Commissioner's Cup Final)

Wednesday

No games scheduled.

Thursday

Atlanta at Washington, 7:30pm
Dallas at Connecticut, 8pm
Seattle at Phoenix, 10pm

Friday

Minnesota at **Liberty**, 7:30pm
Chicago at Las Vegas, 10pm

Commisioner's Cup Final
Liberty 93, Aces 85

Las Vegas

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Talbot	12:30	0-1	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Young	36:16	12-21	4-4	0-2	7	4	31
Smith	20:25	4-8	1-2	4-6	1	2	9
Gray	35:37	3-12	0-0	0-3	7	5	7
Loyd	31:30	2-9	0-1	0-3	0	3	5
Carter	25:22	7-14	4-5	1-3	3	3	18
Parker-Tyus	19:29	3-8	2-2	4-8	2	4	8
Bell	11:04	3-5	0-0	1-3	0	0	7
Turner	7:47	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Totals	200:00	34-79	11-14	10-30	21	24	85

Percentages: FG .430, FT .786. **3-point goals:** 6-26, .231 (Young 3-8, Bell 1-3, Gray 1-4, Loyd 1-7, Carter 0-1, Talbot 0-1, Parker-Tyus 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 7. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 0 **Turnovers:** 9 (Gray 5, Young 2, Carter, Smith). **Steals:** 8 (Loyd 3, Carter 2, Young 2, Parker-Tyus). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Fiebich	33:09	1-5	0-1	2-8	2	5	2
Stewart	34:52	9-16	7-9	4-11	4	2	25
Jones	32:55	1-6	7-8	1-9	3	3	9
Astier	31:04	5-8	4-4	2-5	4	4	15
Ionescu	31:25	9-19	3-4	1-5	5	3	26
Johannes	18:30	3-7	0-0	0-3	0	0	7
Gardner	12:07	3-5	1-1	0-1	0	0	7
Carrera	5:58	0-0	2-2	0-0	0	2	2
Totals	200:00	31-66	24-29	10-42	18	19	93

Percentages: FG .470, FT .828. **3-point goals:** 7-25, .280 (Ionescu 5-13, Astier 1-1, Johannes 1-4, Fiebich 0-1, Gardner 0-1, Stewart 0-1, Jones 0-4). **Team rebounds:** 9. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 5 (Jones 2, Stewart 2, Fiebich). **Turnovers:** 13 (Ionescu 3, Stewart 3, Astier 2, Carrera 2, Gardner 2, Fiebich). **Steals:** 6 (Johannes 2, Stewart 2, Fiebich, Gardner). **Technicals:** None.

Las Vegas	21	16	25	23 —	85
Liberty	27	24	14	28 —	93

A: 15,112 (17,732).

NASCAR

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule-Winners
June 28 — Toyota / Save Mart 350 (Shane Van Gisbergen)
July 5 — eero 400, Joliet, Ill.
July 12 — Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart, Hampton, Ga.
July 19 — Window World 450, North Wilkesboro, N.C.

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: €30,060,000; Surface: Grass; Tuesday (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles - First Round
Adrian Mannarino, France, def. Titouan Droguet, France, 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.
Kamil Majchrzak, Poland, def. Alejandro Tabilo (30), Chile, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5.
Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, def. Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard, France, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (9), 6-2, 6-3.
Jaime Faria, Portugal, def. Sho Shimabukuro, Japan, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3.
Valentin Royer, France, def. Harry Wendelken, Britain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.
Alex de Minaur (5), Australia, def. Roman Andres Burruchaga, Argentina, 7-6 (5), 6-1, 6-0.
Zachary Svajda, U.S., def. Pablo Llamas Ruiz, Spain, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.
Taylor Fritz (6), U.S., def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
Quentin Halys, France, def. Matteo Arnaldi (32), Italy, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Arthur Fery, Britain, def. Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.
Gabriel Diallo, Canada, def. Benjamin Bonzi, France, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 3-1, ret.
Jacob Fearnley, Britain, def. **Alex Michelsen, U.S.**, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.
Jaume Munar, Spain, def. Francisco Cerundolo (18), Argentina, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.
Kyrian Jacquet, France, def. Vilius Gaubas, Lithuania, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (2).
Otto Virtanen, Finland, def. **Ben Shelton (4), U.S.**, 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 (8), 6-2, 7-6 (9).
Patrick Kypson, U.S., def. **Mackenzie McDonald**, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.
Alexander Bublik (10), Kazakhstan, def. Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (10), 6-3, 6-4.
Zizou Bergs, Belgium, def. Ugo Humbert (27), France, 6-2, 7-5, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3.
Karen Khachanov (19), Russia, def. Billy Harris, Britain, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.
Arthur Fils (20), France, def. Raphael Collignon, Belgium, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3.
Jakub Mensik (15), Czechia, def. Toby Samuel, Britain, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7).
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. Alexander Blockx, Belgium, 6-4, 6-7 (8), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (0).
Marcos Giron, U.S., def. Corentin Moutet, France, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-4.
Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry (29), Argentina, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (4).
James Duckworth, Australia, def. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Jan Choinski, Britain, def. Vit Kopriva, Czechia, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2.
Jiri Lehecka (13), Czechia, def. Alexei Popyrin, Australia, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Dane Sweeny, Australia, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-5.
Matteo Berrettini, Italy, def. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (16), 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).

Women's Singles - First Round
Amanda Anisimova (6), U.S., def. Lina Gjorcheska, North Macedonia, 6-3, 6-2.
Tyra Caterina Grant, Italy, def. Katie Boulter, Britain, 6-4, 6-2.
Maria Sakkari, Greece, def. Clara Tauson (24), Denmark, 6-3, 6-3.
Karolina Pliskova, Czechia, def. Tereza Valentova, Czechia, 6-3, 6-4.
Katie Swan, Britain, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-4, 6-4.
Sofia Kenin, U.S., def. Petra Marcinko, Croatia, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Jasmine Paolini (13), Italy, def. **Robin Montgomery, U.S.,** 0-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Marie Bouzkova (21), Czechia, def. Talia Gibson, Australia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.
Madison Keys (26), U.S., def. **Kayla Day, U.S.,** 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3.
Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, def. Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, def. Iryna Shymanovich, Belarus, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.
Maria Timofeeva, Russia, def. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 6-3, 6-2.
Iga Swiatek (3), Poland, def. **Taylor Townsend, U.S., 6**-1, 2-6, 6-3.
Kimberly Birrell, Australia, def. Alina Korneeva, Russia, 6-3, 0-6, 6-2.
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Lois Boisson, France, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.
Oksana Selekhmeteva, Russia, def. Sinja Kraus, Austria, 6-1, 7-5.
Anna Blinkova, Russia, def. Yuliia Starodubtseva, Ukraine, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-1.
Elise Mertens (25), Belgium, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, 6-2, 6-4.
Leolia Jeanjean, France, def. Veronika Erjavec, Slovenia, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6).
Emma Navarro (23), U.S., def. Paula Badosa, Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.
Caty McNally, U.S., def. Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, 7-5, 6-3.
Daria Snigur, Ukraine, def. Elina Svitolina (8), Ukraine, 7-5, 6-2.
Alexandra Eala (29), Philippines, def. Renata Zarazua, Mexico, 6-1, 6-2.
Diana Shnaider (15), Russia, def. Eva Lys, Germany, 7-5, 6-1.
Sorana Cirstea (17), Romania, def. Sara Bejlek, Czechia, 6-1, 7-6 (6).
Marta Kostyuk (12), Ukraine, def. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina, 6-1, 6-2.
Linda Noskova (9), Czechia, def. Ella Seidel, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
Mariam Bolkvadze, Georgia, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.
Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, def. Polina Kudermetova, Russia, 6-3, 6-3.
Camila Osorio, Colombia, def. Simona Waltert, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-1.
Ashlyn Krueger, U.S., def. Donna Vekic (31), Croatia, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Maya Joint, Australia, def. **Serena Williams, U.S.**, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3.

Diamondbacks 8, Giants 2

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b-3b	4	1	3	1	0	0	.331
Eldridge dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.277
Schmitt ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Devers 1b	2	1	1	1	2	0	.242
Lee rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.316
Ramos lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Chapman 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Cox 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Gilbert cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Cavanaugh c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Totals	**30**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**3**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	5	1	2	3	0	0	.265
Perdomo ss	3	1	0	0	2	0	.244
Carroll rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.272
Moreno c	3	2	2	1	2	0	.282
Gurriel dh	5	1	2	3	0	0	.226
Kepler lf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.154
Arenado 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.243
P.Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.145
Vargas 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Barrosa cf	3	1	1	1	1	0	.183
Totals	**34**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**7**	**5**	

San Francisco	**000 001 100 —**	**2**	**4**	**0**
Arizona	**303 001 01x —**	**8**	**10**	**0**

LOB: San Francisco 3, Arizona 9. **2B:** Kepler (1), Gurriel (8). **3B:** Arraez (7). **HR:** Arraez (4), off Pfaadt; Devers (15), off Clarke; Gurriel (2), off Roupp; Marte (17), off Houser. **RBIs:** Arraez (32), Devers (44), Gurriel 3 (19), Barrosa (10), Marte 3 (53), Moreno (27). **SB:** Perdomo (12), P.Smith (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 1 (Eldridge); Arizona 6 (P.Smith, Gurriel, Carroll, Kepler, Perdomo, Arenado). **RISP:** San Francisco 0 for 1; Arizona 4 for 16. **Runners moved up:** Gurriel, Marte. **GIDP:** Lee. **DP:** Arizona 1 (P.Smith, Perdomo, P.Smith).

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Roupp, L, 5-8	2.2	5	6	6	6	4	84	4.55
Houser	5.1	5	2	2	1	1	76	5.38

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pfaadt, W, 1-1	5.1	3	1	1	1	2	66	5.40
Clarke	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	15	2.23
Thompson	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.79
Morillo	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.78
Jameson	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	4.76

T: 2:30. **A:** 20,420 (48,359).

PGA Tour Statistics

FedExCup Season Points
1, Scottie Scheffler, 3,511. 2, Matt Fitzpatrick, 3,195. 3, Cameron Young, 2,586. 4, Wyndham Clark, 2,199. 5, Collin Morikawa, 2,176. 6, Si Woo Kim, 1,860. 7, Ludvig Aberg, 1,773.

Scoring Average
1, Scottie Scheffler, 68.901. 2, Collin Morikawa, 69.533. 3, Matt Fitzpatrick, 69.621. 4, Jake Knapp, 69.795.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Wednesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	$122-149	Tigers
Mets	-105-117	BLUE JAYS
ORIOLES	OFF	White Sox
Rangers	-109-113	GUARDIANS
Rays	$117-142	ROYALS
Twins	$102-125	ASTROS
CUBS	$126-155	Padres
PHILLIES	$114-138	Pirates
BRAVES	$109-133	Cardinals
BREWERS	$134-163	Reds
Marlins	$133-162	ROCKIES
Giants	-101-121	D'BACKS
RED SOX	$125-154	Nationals
Dodgers	$157-195	ATHLETICS

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Dream	6.5 (165.5)	MYSTICS
Wings	9.5 (170.5)	SUN
MERCURY	5.5 (168.5)	Storm
	Friday	
Lynx	1.5 (172.5)	**LIBERTY**
ACES	10.5 (181.5)	Sky

FIFA World Cup
Wednesday- Round of 32

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*__United States__	$400-550	Bosnia & Herzegovina
**England	$575-900	Congo
***Belgium	$135-165	Senega
*Santa Clara, Calif. **Atlanta ***Seattle		
	Thursday	
*Spain	$500-750	Austria
**Portugal	$210-275	Croatia
***Switzerland	$145-190	Algeria
*Los Angeles, **Toronto, ***Vancouver		
	Friday	
*Egypt	$110-140	Australia
**Argentina	$145-190	Cape Verde
***Colombia	$320-450	Ghana
*Dallas, **Miami, ***Kansas City		
	Saturday- Round of 16	
*Morocco	$210-275	Canada
**France	$800-1200	Paraguay
*Houston, **Philadelphia		
	Sunday- Round of 16	
Brazil	$175-225	Norway
game held at MetLife Stadium		

SPORTS SHORTS

NHL: Devils trade Markstrom

The Panthers traded for their second goaltender in as many days, acquiring **Jacob Markstrom** in a deal with the Devils that all but certainly signals the end of **Sergei Bobrovsky**'s storied run in South Florida.

The Panthers sent **Evan Rodrigues**, **Jesper Boqvist** and the rights to pending restricted free agent **Ben Steeves** to the Devils for Markstrom and winger **Angus Crookshank**.

The Devils also re-signed forward **Arseny Gritsyuk** to a three-year, $9.75 million contract. The 25-year-old Gritsyuk had 13 goals and 31 points as a rookie last year and was a pending restricted free agent.

● Vegas is re-signing **Jeremy Lauzon** to a six-year contract worth $24 million, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

● The Mammoth signed goalie **Sebastian Cossa** to a two-year, $4 million contract after trading a first-round pick to Detroit for his rights.

MLB: Nats scuffle past Red Sox

Cade Cavalli gave up one hit in seven innings and had a career-high 13 strikeouts in the Nationals' 8-1 victory over the host Red Sox, snapping Boston's five-game winning streak.

Cavalli, who was at the center of a scuffle in the fourth inning, yelled at Red Sox first baseman **Willson Contreras** after striking him out, causing the benches to clear. Contreras, Red Sox interim manager **Chris Tracy**, teammate **Nate Eaton** and Nationals pitcher **Miles Mikolas** were all ejected.

● In Cleveland, **Jacob deGrom** pitched seven strong innings to improve to 4-0 in June, and the Rangers beat the Guardians 4-2 to extend their winning streak to six games.

● In Kansas City, Mo., **Junior Caminero** homered for the fifth straight game, a three-run shot that highlighted a six-run second inning, and the Rays rolled from there to a 10-4 victory over the Royals.

● In Chicago, **Dansby Swanson** hit two of Chicago's five home runs and the Cubs held on for their fourth straight victory, 9-7 over the Padres.

NBA: 76ers sign Wade to $39M deal

The 76ers have agreed to a $39 million, four-year deal with veteran forward **Dean Wade**, a person with knowledge of the deal said. The 6-foot-9 Wade spent his entire seven-year NBA career with the Cavaliers.

● The Pistons plan to re-sign wing **Kevin Huerter** to a three-year, $27 million contract, multiple outlets reported.

● The Suns have agreed to a $13 million, two-year deal with veteran guard **Luke Kennard**, a person with knowledge of the deal said.

NFL: Sorsby eligible for 2027 draft

Brendan Sorsby is moving on to the 2027 NFL Draft. The NFL sent a memo to all 32 teams informing them that the ex-Texas Tech quarterback will not seek legal action against the league after it denied his petition to enter the supplemental draft.

TOP PLAY

Mets-Jays lumber party

By ERICH RICHTER

The Mets have been an embarrassment this season, and as the calendar turns to July, their only goal is to figure out if they have any keepers for the years to come.

One piece that you can bet probably won't be a part of their future is Freddy Peralta, who gets the ball Wednesday against the Blue Jays.

The Mets open near even money with the Blue Jays, who were set to toss out embattled starter Patrick Corbin but will instead go to a bullpen game. It remains to be seen who gets the majority of work for Toronto, and it's possible Corbin still gets in, but long man Spencer Miles figures to be in the picture as well.

It's the Mets ace and their nearly full-health roster against Toronto who is throwing out a bullpen game.

We've seen the Mets turn bad pitchers into aces all season long, but they've at least got a healthy-ish offensive squad with Francisco Lindor back from injury and Juan Soto still looking dominant.

Seemingly all of the Mets starters this year have a better FIP than ERA, mostly because their defense is an abomination, but that doesn't excuse Peralta's inability to get outs.

Regardless of how you stack that up, Peralta and anyone the Jays throw out shouldn't be all that effective.

So I'll take the over here and feel free to target a home run prop on Bichette against his former team.

THE PLAY: Over 8.5 total runs (-110, BetMGM).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Tigers	Melton (R)		4-1	2.39	4-2	0-0	4.50	0-0	2-1	17.0	3.18
Yankees	Warren (R)	(1:35pm)	7-3	3.75	12-4	0-0	3.00	0-0	0-2	15.1	5.28
Nationals	Alvarez (L)		1-1	3.44	2-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	12.1	2.92
Red Sox	Tolle (L)	(1:35pm)	4-5	2.78	4-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	18.0	3.00
Mets	Peralta (R)		5-6	4.53	8-9	1-0	0.00	1-1	1-1	13.1	7.43
Blue Jays	TBD	(3:07pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dodgers	Ohtani (R)		8-2	1.58	8-5	—	—	5-4	2-0	18.2	4.34
Athletics	Ginn (R)	(9:40pm)	6-4	3.15	10-5	—	—	—	2-1	17.1	3.12
White Sox	Schultz (L)		2-4	5.82	3-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	13.2	7.90
Orioles	TBD	(12:35pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rangers	Gore (L)		5-6	4.06	8-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	20.0	3.60
Guardians	Cantillo (L)	(1:10pm)	6-3	3.87	12-5	0-1	12.60	0-1	2-0	19.0	1.42
Rays	McClanahan (L)		6-5	3.30	8-7	0-1	3.00	1-1	0-2	13.2	5.27
Royals	Lugo (R)	(7:40pm)	3-5	4.18	7-9	0-1	12.60	3-1	1-1	14.1	5.65
Twins	Bradley (R)		6-3	3.98	9-6	0-0	0.00	2-3	1-0	18.2	3.86
Astros	Imai (R)	(8:10pm)	5-3	5.36	7-4	0-1	5.79	0-1	2-0	12.2	5.68
Padres	Buehler (R)		5-3	3.81	11-5	0-0	3.86	1-3	2-0	15.2	1.72
Cubs	Rea (R)	(2:20pm)	5-5	4.80	5-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	15.0	4.80
Pirates	Skenes (R)		6-7	3.10	6-11	0-1	9.00	0-2	0-2	17.0	4.24
Phillies	Wheeler (R)	(6:40pm)	8-1	2.03	10-2	1-0	0.00	6-1	3-0	18.2	1.45
Cardinals	McGreevy (R)		3-6	3.12	7-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	17.0	3.71
Braves	López (R)	(7:15pm)	3-1	3.47	5-1	0-0	0.00	1-0	0-1	9.0	8.00
Reds	Abbott (L)		5-4	3.90	10-7	0-0	0.00	3-4	1-0	15.1	2.93
Brewers	Drohan (L)	(8:10pm)	3-2	3.12	3-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	14.1	3.14
Marlins	Meyer (R)		9-0	2.60	13-4	0-0	5.40	0-2	3-0	18.0	1.50
Rockies	Freeland (L)	(8:40pm)	1-7	7.50	5-9	0-1	4.15	4-2	0-1	19.0	6.63
Giants	McDonald (R)		2-6	4.94	4-6	0-1	2.84	0-1	0-3	12.0	7.50
D'Backs	Gallen (R)	(9:40pm)	3-7	6.15	6-11	1-0	3.00	9-6	0-2	16.2	9.18

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Marlins' Max reels in another win

"Let me get this straight. There will be more than 1,000 guests at Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding, but Stitches still didn't make the cut? Where's the justice?" — Joe from Brooklyn

Some things are not fair, Joe. For instance, why does Team USA have to play both Bosnia and Herzegovina on the same day? Their loss. Putting the CorningWare set back in storage.

This just in ... Serena Williams will be able to attend the wedding.

The Marlins' Max Meyer is 9-0 and has allowed just three runs in his past 18 innings. Miami visits the Rockies. Colorado's Kyle Freeland is 1-7 after giving up six runs to the Red Sox. Play $50 on Max and the Marlins.

+$

Needed the Mets to get their act together for one lousy night. They did. Nolan McLean pitched six innings, and they slayed the Jays 3-0. Up +15 nolanryans.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 1	THU July 2	FRI July 3	SAT July 4	SUN July 5
	Detroit 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Minnesota 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Minnesota 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Minnesota 1:35 Peacock NBCSN Extra 660 AM/101.9 FM
	Toronto 3:07 SNY 880 AM	NO GAME	Atlanta 7:15 PIX11 880 AM	Atlanta 8:08 Fox 880 AM	Atlanta 12:30 NBC Peacock 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Minnesota 7:30 ION	NO GAME	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22	Wednesday, July 22	Saturday
FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	San Diego Wave FC 8:45 ION

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
12:30 p.m.	White Sox at Orioles	MLBN
1:35 p.m.	Tigers at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
3:07 p.m.	Mets at Blue Jays	SNY, 880 AM
3:30 p.m.	Padres at Cubs (joined in progress)	MLBN
8 p.m.	Reds at Brewers	ESPN
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
Noon	Round of 32: England vs. Congo	Fox, Telemundo
4 p.m.	Round of 32: Belgium vs. Senegal	FS1, Telemundo
8 p.m.	Round of 32: U.S. vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina	Fox, Telemundo
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, 2nd Round	ESPN
6 p.m.	ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, 2nd Round	Tennis
MEN'S SOCCER		
1 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Vancouver at Forge FC	FS2
4 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Atletico Ottawa at HFX Wanderers FC	FS2
7 p.m.	USL League One: Westchester SC at Chattanooga Red Wolves	MSG
10 p.m.	USL League One: Madison at Spokane	CBSSN
SOFTBALL		
7 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Blaze at Spark	ESPN2
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE		
4 p.m.	Naptown Challenge: 2028 Division Championship	ESPNU
6 p.m.	Naptown Challenge: 2027 Division Championship	ESPNU

NFL

Odds to win Super Bowl LXI
Feb. 14, 2027

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Rams	+550	Bears	27/1
Seahawks	10/1	Commanders	45/1
Bills	10/1	Colts	45/1
Ravens	11/1	Buccaneers	50/1
Chargers	16/1	Vikings	50/1
Lions	17/1	Panthers	70/1
Patriots	17/1	Steelers	70/1
Chiefs	17/1	Giants	70/1
49ers	17/1	Falcons	80/1
Eagles	19/1	Saints	80/1
Texans	19/1	Titans	125/1
Broncos	20/1	Raiders	125/1
Bengals	22/1	Browns	400/1
Packers	22/1	Jets	400/1
Cowboys	25/1	Dolphins	500/1
Jaguars	25/1	Cardinals	1,000/1

Favorites to win 2026 MVP

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Josh Allen	+600	Matthew Stafford	+900
Lamar Jackson	+750	Justin Herbert	11/1
Drake Maye	+850	Patrick Mahomes	13/1
Joe Burrow	+900	Dak Prescott	14/1

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP
Wednesday
USA vs.Bosnia-Herzegovina

3-WAY BETTING (90 min plus stoppage time)	ODDS
USA	-250
Draw	+375
Bosnia-Herzegovina	+675
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 1.5	-375
Under 1.5	+280
Over 2.5	-120
Under 2.5	-102
Over 3.5	+210
Under 3.5	-275
HALFTIME SCORE	**ODDS**
USA	-115
Draw	+140
Bosnia-Herzegovina	+550
BOTH TEAMS SCORE	**ODDS**
Yes	+115
No	-150
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER (including extra time)	**ODDS**
Christian Pulisic (USA)	+105
Folarin Balogun (USA)	+110
Ricardo Pepi (USA)	+110
Giovanni Reyna (USA)	+170
Malik Tillman (USA)	+210
Timothy Weah (USA)	+280
Weston McKennie (USA)	+330
Sebastian Berhalter (USA)	+340
Sergiño Dest (USA)	+340
Edin Džeko (Bosnia)	+380
Ermedin Demirovic (Bosnia)	+500
Tyler Adams (USA)	+700
Chris Richards (USA)	+700
Ermin Mahmic (Bosnia)	+750
Kerim Alajbegovic (Bosnia)	+500
Alex Freeman (USA)	+850
Joe Scally (USA)	+900
Esmir Bajraktarevic (Bosnia)	+950
Antonee Robinson (USA)	+950
METHOD OF VICTORY	**ODDS**
Either team in extra time	+650
USA in extra time	+800
Either team in penalty shootout	10/1
USA in penalty shootout	17/1
Bosnia in penalty shootout	22/1
Bosnia in extra time	30/1
WINNING MARGIN	**ODDS**
USA by exactly 1 goal	+230
USA by exactly 2 goals	+300
USA by exactly 3 goals	+550
USA by 4 or more goals	+750
Bosnia by exactly 1 goal	10/1
0-0 draw	12/1
Bosnia by exactly 2 goals	35/1
Bosnia by exactly 3 goals	100/1
Bosnia by 4 or more goals	100/1
WILL A PENALTY BE AWARDED?	**ODDS**
Yes	+192

BET SMART

Getty Images

USA by at least two in knockout

KICKIN' IT UP A FEW NOTCHES: Led by striker Folarin Balogun, the USA's attack will have too much firepower for the Bosnia-Herzegovina defense to handle in Wednesday's Round of 32 match, writes Post expert Michael Leboff.

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

Team USA looked like a force to be reckoned with in the group stage of the 2026 World Cup, but all of that goes out the window now. A slip-up against Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32 on Wednesday night would spoil what could be a crowning moment for the U.S. Men's National Team.

The Americans are also in uncharted waters.

For the first time in modern history, the Yanks are a heavy favorite in an elimination game at the World Cup. The only other time they were projected to win a knockout match was in 2010, when they were slightly favored over Ghana. The Black Stars won that match 2-1.

The last time the Americans won a knockout match at the World Cup was 24 years ago in South Korea, 2-0 over Mexico.

Though that 2002 group had plenty of spunk, they were nowhere near as talented as the current crop of stars.

After dismantling Paraguay and Australia in the group stage, and losing an entertaining but meaningless match against Turkey, Team USA will be presented with a different kind of challenge against Bosnia.

Though Paraguay and Australia sat deep and tried to counter with speed against Team USA, the Bosnians will try to turn this into a backyard brawl. They're a big and physical side, and they know their best chance of pulling this upset — and it would be a big one, as the bookmakers have the USA advancing in the range of -550 (BetMGM) to -700 (DraftKings — is by playing disciplined defense then trying to get a goal on a set piece.

Bosnia nearly pulled that exact game plan off against Canada in its first match of the tournament. The Dragons defended deep, got a goal on a set piece, and tried to hold on for the remaining 75 minutes. The Canadians scored a late equalizer, but that match still serves as a warning to the Yanks.

That said, the Americans are much better equipped than Canada to unlock a low block.

You need to be quick and decisive with your ball movement against a compact defense, and the Americans have been just that thanks to their string-pullers in the midfield, Tyler Adams and Weston McKennie.

It is also critical that the Stars & Stripes can offer a variety of different looks going forward. Christian Pulisic can dribble by you on one flank, and Sergiño Dest can fly by you on the other. They should be able to pull the Bosnian backline toward the sidelines all night.

And should all else fail, the Americans have a talismanic striker at the tip of the spear, Folarin Balogun, to occupy Bosnia's two center backs.

The 24-year-old has been an absolute menace in this tournament so far.

With so many attacking options, it would take a special effort from this Bosnian defense not to get stretched and pulled out of shape. Paraguay and Australia couldn't pull it off, and I don't expect the Bosnians will either.

You can get +110 on Team USA to win by at least two goals (DraftKings). That's a fine way to back the Red, White and Blue on Wednesday.

A QUICK CAMEO

THAT WAS QUICK: Serena Williams waves to Wimbledon fans as she exists the court following her 6-3, 6-7 (6) 6-3 loss to Maya Joint in the first round. It was Williams' first singles match in four years. Shutterstock

Serena's Wimbledon singles return over after valiant three-set ouster

By ANDREW DAMPF

LONDON — The roars began even before Serena Williams stepped on Centre Court. Then they grew louder when the 23-time Grand Slam champion arrived to play her first singles match in nearly four years.

And when it was all over and the 44-year-old Williams had performed admirably in a three-set defeat to an opponent less than half her age in the opening round of Wimbledon with her two daughters cheering her on, Williams smiled as she walked off to a loud round of applause.

"It was really great to be back at Wimbledon. I never expected to be here," Williams, who did not meet with media after the match, said in a statement released by Wimbledon organizers. "The atmosphere was amazing. Walking out was amazing. I definitely relished it and missed it and enjoyed the moment more than anything."

In a 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3 loss to 20-year-old Maya Joint of Australia on Tuesday, Williams showed she can still crank out serves faster than 120 mph and dictate points with her heavy groundstrokes.

Movement was an issue for Williams, though, and the 87th-ranked Joint was able to handle Williams' pace and win more of the big points by hitting beyond the American's reach.

While Williams played two doubles matches just before Wimbledon to announce her comeback to the sport she once dominated, she hadn't played a singles match since the 2022 U.S. Open.

"She has such an aura, she's just a legend and this court has so many huge names that have played on it," Joint added. "I've been dreaming about this moment since I was a little kid, so this is pretty crazy."

Williams has 98 career victories and seven titles in singles on the hallowed grass of the All England Club. By contrast, it was Joint's first Wimbledon victory in just her second appearance at the All England Club after losing in the opening round last year.

But Joint won a Wimbledon warmup in nearby Eastbourne last year and knows how to play on grass.

Williams, who has no singles ranking after being out for so long, was given wild card invitations by Wimbledon organizers to play singles and also doubles with older sister Venus. Her doubles match will come later in the week.

Williams has said that having her two daughters off from school inspired her comeback and it marked the first time that her youngest daughter, Adira, who is almost 3, saw her play singles. Adira sat next to her 8-year-old sister, Olympia in the front row of Serena's players' box.

Fans started cheering when Williams' name was announced as the next match on Centre Court and then they gave her a standing ovation as she walked out before the match started under a closed roof. Several supporters held up signs with messages like "Welcome Back" and one wore a T-shirt that said "Unstoppable Queen."

Williams executed a delicate topspin lob winner early on and then cranked out a 121 mph ace to hold for 3-3 in the first set. But Williams also had a costly double-fault which led to the only break of the first set.

In the second set, Williams came back from 0-40 and saved four break points to hold for 6-5. Then Williams saved a match point in the tiebreaker with a big serve down the T followed by a forehand approach winner. Another big serve — clocking in at 122 mph — set up Serena's first set point, which she converted when Joint missed a forehand long.

After winning the set, Williams pumped her fist calmly.

But Joint took control early in the third and a forehand from Williams sailed long on Joint's third match point to conclude the encounter after 2 hours, 22 minutes.

Williams and Joint both had 37 unforced errors, while Joint led 40-26 in winners. *— AP*

Yonkers for Wednesday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Barbados Babe	(JStratton)	7-6-5	6-1
2	Fight Not Flight	(JMarohn)	4-5-6	4-1
3	Spirit Of Pearl A	(Bongiorno)	2-8-4	2-1
4	Big City Daisy	(ASiegelman)	8-3-2	9-5
5	Thundra	(PLachance)	6-4-5	20-1
6	Tricky Wicky	(SZeron)	7-8-4	20-1
7	Jive Dancing A	(CKelly)	6-6-4	8-1
8	Pine Bush Maga	(SSmith)	3-2-3	20-1

SECOND: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Karloo Bradley N	(JMarohn)	3-1-7	7-2
2	AcapulcoSunburn	(JBongirn)	2-2-6	3-1
3	Hank The Hunk	(CKelly)	1-3-5	8-1
4	Minotaur	(VGinsburg)	6-3-1	5-1
5	Foxhunt	(JStratton)	1-1-4	9-2
6	ThemskedcrsdrN	(Segelmn)	2-2-6	20-1
7	Lou's Beach	(SZeron)	4-4-5	8-1
8	Movin' On Up	(PLachance)	1-3-1	6-1

THIRD: Mile trot; $21,000; cond

1	Goya	(CKelly)	2-1-1	4-1
2	Highlandstarburst	(JBongirn)	2-6-7	9-5
3	Matthews	(SZeron)	1-1-4	3-1
4	BeersnsunshineDeo	(JStrttn)	2-6-5	9-2
5	Boom Chica Boom	(JMarohn)	3-4-5	10-1
6	Diamond Bay	(NKarna)	6-6-6	8-1
7	Six And Stones	(PLachance)	6-3-8	20-1

FOURTH: Mile pace; $19,000; cond

1	Heartofthesunrise	(CKelly)	5-5-4	3-2
2	Silence Is Golden	(SZeron)	3-1-2	6-1
3	Pa Perfect	(SSmith)	9-9-7	5-2
4	ShadowDelight	(Siegelman)	8-2-2	8-1
5	Doral Delight	(JMarohn)	2-2-5	20-1
6	Papi's Crush	(JStratton)	2-8-5	10-1
7	Squankum Lady	(PLachance)	2-2-8	15-1
8	Blazing Queen	(JBongiorno)	5-4-4	12-1

FIFTH: Mile pace; $18,000; claiming

1	Th Rizzo	(SZeron)	1-5-3	1-1
2	MsFrancesAssisi	(JBongiorn)	7-4-1	5-2
3	Two Bean Dream	(CKelly)	5-1-7	5-1
4	Purameri	(PLachance)	4-8-3	20-1
5	CharmingVixen	(Siegelman)	4-4-4	20-1
6	You Beda Rock	(JStratton)	7-4-5	20-1
7	Th Sandra Dee	(JMarohn)	8-1-1	8-1
8	Who's Perfect	(SSmith)	6-5-1	20-1

SIXTH: Mile trot; $19,000; cond

1	Raucous	(PLachance)	5-2-8	5-1
2	Peteza	(JBongiorno)	1-1-5	8-5
3	Captain Willie	(JMarohn)	8-8-1	20-1
4	Very Busy	(SZeron)	4-8-3	6-1
5	Chapter Geo J	(JStratton)	2-5-2	9-5
6	Long Hill	(CKelly)	3-7-2	8-1
7	ShadyMpleBecky	(Segelmn)	7-6-5	20-1
8	Serenity As	(SSmith)	4-1-2	20-1

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $20,000; claiming

1	Thong Control	(PLachance)	2-6-3	7-2
2	Alwayscuttinschool	(CKelly)	5-6-6	6-1
3	Wavemaker	(JStratton)	7-4-7	3-1
4	Jk Steves Spirit	(SZeron)	1-1-5	5-1
5	Rayray	(JMarohn)	3-5-5	20-1
6	Overthinking	(JBongiorno)	5-5-1	2-1
7	LyonsBenjamin	(Siegelman)	4-1-2	12-1

EIGHTH: Mile trot; $24,000; cond

1	SantsPreserveUs	(Segelmn)	6-1-8	5-1
2	Wish List	(JMarohn)	7-1-5	15-1
3	Bruha	(SZeron)	1-3-8	6-1
4	Bo Silas	(JBongiorno)	7-8-3	7-2
5	Moni Man	(PLachance)	3-3-4	9-2
6	Seven Layer	(VGinsburg)	1-4-1	8-5
7	Credit To Frank	(JStratton)	5-3-4	15-1

NINTH: Mile pace; $19,000; claiming

1	Ever M	(CKelly)	1-1-1	8-5
2	Maximus Red A	(JStratton)	3-4-6	8-1
3	GreatSomewhere	(Lachnce)	3-4-5	20-1
4	DntbthermenneN	(Segelmn)	6-5-3	20-1
5	C-Bet Hanover	(SSmith)	2-1-3	9-2
6	Simply Fast	(SZeron)	4-2-7	12-1
7	Komodo Beach	(JBongiorno)	1-1-2	7-2
8	Boiling Oar	(JMarohn)	1-3-4	10-1

TENTH: Mile pace; $15,000; claiming

1	Shine A Light	(VGinsburg)	1-1-6	4-5
2	Delightful Terror	(JStratton)	6-8-5	15-1
3	Dismas	(PLachance)	5-5-5	15-1
4	Saranac Blue Chip	(JMarohn)	1-2-1	7-2
5	Dancininthefire	(SSmith)	3-1-7	20-1
6	Curly James A	(CKelly)	5-2-6	9-2
7	Captain Batboy	(JBongiorno)	3-6-4	10-1
8	Vegas Strip N	(ASiegelman)	4-6-8	20-1

Formula One Schedule-Winners

June 14 — Barcelona Grand Prix 2026 (Lewis Hamilton)
June 28 — Austrian Grand Prix 2026 (George Russell)
July 5 — British Grand Prix 2026, Silverstone.
July 19 — Belgian Grand Prix 2026, Spa-Francorchamps.
July 26 — Hungarian Grand Prix 2026, Budapest.
Aug. 23 — Dutch Grand Prix 2026, Zandvoort, Netherlands.
Sept. 6 — Italian Grand Prix 2026, Monza.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	49	33	.598	—	—	7-3	W-6	31-12	18-21
Yankees	48	37	.565	2½	+5	2-8	L-6	22-17	26-20
Toronto	40	46	.465	11	3½	3-7	L-1	23-25	17-21
Baltimore	39	48	.448	12½	5	4-6	L-4	23-23	16-25
Boston	37	47	.440	13	5½	6-4	L-1	17-26	20-21

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	45	39	.536	—	—	6-4	W-2	28-14	17-25
Cleveland	44	42	.512	2	+½	4-6	L-2	21-20	23-22
Minnesota	41	46	.471	5½	3	5-5	L-1	22-23	19-23
Detroit	37	49	.430	9	6½	5-5	W-2	23-21	14-28
Kansas City	35	51	.407	11	8½	4-6	L-1	19-23	16-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	44	42	.512	—	—	8-2	W-6	19-18	25-24
Seattle	44	43	.506	½	—	5-5	W-2	24-19	20-24
Houston	43	45	.489	2	1½	7-3	W-1	21-22	22-23
Athletics	40	46	.465	4	3½	2-8	L-4	18-25	22-21
Los Angeles	36	51	.414	8½	8	6-4	L-2	21-22	15-29

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

Detroit 9, **Yankees** 3
Mets 3, Toronto 0
Texas 4, Cleveland 2
White Sox 9, Baltimore 3
Washington 8, Boston 1
Tampa Bay 10, Kansas City 4
Houston 6, Minnesota 4
L.A. Dodgers 9, Athletics 3
Seattle 8, L.A. Angels 3

Wednesday

Detroit at **Yankees**, 1:35
Mets at Toronto, 3:07
White Sox at Baltimore, 12:35
Texas at Cleveland, 1:10
Washington at Boston, 1:35
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 7:40
Minnesota at Houston, 8:10
L.A. Dodgers at Athletics, 9:40

Thursday

White Sox at Cleveland, 6:40
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 7:40
Detroit at Texas, 8:05
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	49	34	.590	—	—	3-7	L-3	24-15	25-19
Philadelphia	48	38	.558	2½	+2	7-3	W-1	24-20	24-18
Miami	46	40	.535	4½	—	8-2	W-2	28-17	18-23
Washington	44	43	.506	7	2½	4-6	W-1	17-25	27-18
Mets	36	50	.419	14½	10	2-8	W-1	19-24	17-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	52	31	.627	—	—	7-3	W-2	28-17	24-14
Chicago	48	38	.558	5½	+2	8-2	W-4	25-17	23-21
St. Louis	44	38	.537	7½	—	4-6	W-2	23-21	21-17
Pittsburgh	43	43	.500	10½	3	5-5	L-1	23-22	20-21
Cincinnati	39	45	.464	13½	6	4-6	L-3	19-22	20-23

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	56	30	.651	—	—	7-3	W-4	26-14	30-16
San Diego	43	41	.512	12	2	5-5	L-4	23-21	20-20
Arizona	43	42	.506	12½	2½	4-6	W-2	26-17	17-25
San Francisco	35	50	.412	20½	10½	4-6	L-2	18-22	17-28
Colorado	33	53	.384	23	13	4-6	L-3	18-24	15-29

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Tuesday

Mets 3, Toronto 0
Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 0
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 3
Washington 8, Boston 1
Milwaukee 7, Cincinnati 2
Cubs 9, San Diego 7
Miami 14, Colorado 3
Arizona 8, San Francisco 2
L.A. Dodgers 9, Athletics 3

Wednesday

Mets at Toronto, 3:07
Washington at Boston, 1:35
San Diego at Cubs, 2:20
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6:40
St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:15
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 8:10
Miami at Colorado, 8:40
L.A. Dodgers at Athletics, 9:40
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

Thursday

Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 12:35
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 2:10
Miami at Colorado, 3:10
St. Louis at Atlanta, 7:15
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 42**

9	6	5	3	1	2	4	7	8
1	8	7	5	4	9	3	2	6
2	4	3	6	7	8	9	5	1
4	7	8	9	5	1	6	3	2
3	1	9	4	2	6	7	8	5
5	2	6	8	3	7	1	4	9
8	5	1	7	9	3	2	6	4
7	9	4	2	6	5	8	1	3
6	3	2	1	8	4	5	9	7

Solution to Very Easy #7,326

9	4	6	2	7	3	8	5	1
2	8	3	4	5	1	7	9	6
7	5	1	6	8	9	4	3	2
1	2	4	8	3	5	6	7	9
3	9	7	1	6	4	5	2	8
8	6	5	9	2	7	1	4	3
6	3	9	5	4	8	2	1	7
5	1	8	7	9	2	3	6	4
4	7	2	3	1	6	9	8	5

Solution to Difficult #7,116

Tigers 9, Yankees 3

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle 3b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.283
Dingler c	5	1	2	0	0	0	.264
Carpenter rf	5	1	1	1	0	1	.235
Greene lf	4	2	2	3	0	1	.288
Keith dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.248
Torkelson 1b	4	2	2	2	0	2	.218
McKinstry ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	.192
Outman cf	3	1	1	3	1	1	.173
Lee 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.258
Totals	38	9	11	9	1	8	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Rosario 3b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.252
Rice dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.268
Domínguez rf	4	0	2	1	0	1	.222
Volpe ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Caballero 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.245
S.Jones cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.225
Schuemann lf	2	1	0	0	0	0	.189
Sánchez c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	31	3	4	2	1	11	

Detroit	402 003 000 —	9	11	1
Yankees	100 001 001 —	3	4	1

E: McKinstry (2), Caballero (8). **LOB:** Detroit 3, New York 3. **2B:** Dingler (17). **HR:** Carpenter (13), off Schlittler; Greene 2 (11), off Schlittler; Torkelson (14), off Schlittler; Outman (3), off Yarbrough; Rice (23), off Skubal. **RBIs:** Carpenter (36), Greene 3 (37), Torkelson 2 (37), Outman 3 (11), Rice (54), Domínguez (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 1 (Keith); New York 2 (Caballero 2). **RISP:** Detroit 1 for 6; New York 1 for 3. **DP:** Detroit 1 (McKinstry, Lee, Torkelson); New York 1 (Caballero, Volpe, Goldschmidt).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skubal, W, 4-4	6.0	1	2	1	0	9	87	3.15
Waguespack	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	35	1.86
Holton	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	25	3.40

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schlittler, L, 8-5	4.0	7	6	6	1	5	85	2.08
Yarbrough	2.0	2	3	2	0	0	26	4.24
Y.Cruz	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	20	0.00
Bird	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	8	4.44

T: 2:38. **A:** 37,211 (47,309).

Phillies 8, Pirates 0

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Griffin ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.271
Valdez rf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.313
Reynolds lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.282
Ozuna dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.200
Gonzales 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.294
Rodríguez 1b-c	4	0	1	0	0	3	.270
Triolo 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.234
Cook cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.167
Davis c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.147
O'Hearn ph-1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.288
Totals	32	0	5	0	3	13	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	5	2	2	3	0	1	.237
Schwarber dh	5	1	2	0	0	2	.256
Harper 1b	4	0	1	1	1	0	.275
Marsh lf	5	0	0	1	0	2	.317
Bohm 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.222
Stott 2b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.241
Realmuto c	3	1	0	0	0	2	.204
Rincones rf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.132
Hill pr-rf	1	1	0	0	0	1	.239
Crawford cf	3	1	3	3	0	0	.256
Totals	35	8	12	8	3	8	

Pittsburgh	000 000 000 —	0	5	0
Philadelphia	020 000 33x —	8	12	0

LOB: Pittsburgh 8, Philadelphia 8. **2B:** Cook (1), Crawford (12), Turner (15). **HR:** Turner (9), off Bidois. **RBIs:** Crawford 3 (19), Turner 3 (28), Harper (54), Marsh (45). **S:** Crawford. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 4 (Ozuna, Griffin, Cook, Rodríguez); Philadelphia 4 (Turner, Marsh, Rincones, Harper). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 0 for 6; Philadelphia 6 for 15.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Chandler, L, 3-8	6.1	7	5	5	2	6	97	4.62
Mattson	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	9	3.51
Bidois	0.2	4	3	3	1	2	31	6.32
Callihan	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.00

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sánchez, W, 10-3	7.0	3	0	0	2	9	92	2.00
Bowlan	1.0	1	0	0	1	3	26	3.55
Trivino	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	13.50

T: 2:35. **A:** 41,710 (42,901).

Mets 3, Blue Jays 0

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.256
Soto lf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.298
Bichette 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.212
Young 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.234
Ewing cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.275
Alvarez dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.250
Baty 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.210
Torrens c	3	1	1	1	1	1	.217
Totals	33	3	7	3	3	11	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.221
Lukes rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Kirk c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.188
Keys 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.125
Clement 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.297
Varsho cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.258
Urías 2b	3	0	2	0	1	0	.400
Piñango lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Straw ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Giménez ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Totals	33	0	6	0	2	9	

Mets	000 010 101 —	3	7	0
Toronto	000 000 000 —	0	6	1

E: Keys (1). **LOB:** New York 7, Toronto 8. **2B:** Baty (10), Varsho (16). **HR:** Alvarez (9), off Gausman; Torrens (2), off Fluharty. **RBIs:** Alvarez (19), Torrens (16), Baty (27). **SF:** Baty. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Ewing 2, Bichette, Benge); Toronto 3 (Giménez, Piñango, Straw). **RISP:** New York 0 for 7; Toronto 0 for 3.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McLean, W, 5-5	6.0	5	0	0	2	7	91	3.78
Raley, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.32
Weaver, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.00
Williams, S, 12-13	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	18	4.13

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gausman, L, 4-7	6.0	5	1	1	2	7	96	4.19
Fluharty	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	14	4.59
Nance	1.2	1	1	0	1	2	32	3.48
Macko	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1.23

T: 2:38. **A:** 41,538 (39,150).

Cardinals 5, Braves 3

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.261
Herrera c	5	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Walker rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.288
Velázquez dh	2	1	2	1	1	0	.316
Burleson ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Fermín 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.264
Winn ss	3	2	1	0	1	0	.245
Nootbaar lf	4	1	2	0	0	1	.306
Jordan 1b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.235
Church cf	4	1	1	3	0	1	.258
Totals	32	5	6	5	5	6	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin dh-c	5	0	1	0	0	2	.254
Albies 2b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.274
Olson 1b	4	0	1	0	1	2	.276
Harris cf	3	0	0	0	2	1	.294
Dubón lf	4	1	1	0	1	0	.267
White rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Yastrzemski ph-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.223
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.207
Bart c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.230
Tellez ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.200
Kim pr-ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.068
Mateo ss	2	2	1	0	1	1	.266
Smith ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.279
Iglesias p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Totals	32	3	6	2	7	12	

St. Louis	000 401 000 —	5	6	0
Atlanta	001 000 110 —	3	6	0

LOB: St. Louis 6, Atlanta 11. **2B:** Olson (22). **HR:** Velázquez (3), off Pérez; Church (6), off Pérez. **RBIs:** Velázquez (7), Church 3 (23), Jordan (13), Albies 2 (46). **SB:** Mateo (9), Winn (7). **SF:** Jordan, Albies. Olson, Bart, Baldwin 2). **RISP:** St. Louis 1 for 5; Atlanta 1 for 12.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Liberatore, W, 4-5	5.0	1	1	1	4	9	98	5.33
Soriano	1.2	0	1	1	1	1	28	3.47
Romero	0.2	4	1	1	0	1	22	3.89
Fernandez, H, 1	0.2	0	0	0	2	1	25	1.74
O'Brien, S, 21-25	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	3.82

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez, L, 6-5	5.0	5	4	4	3	1	85	3.27
Karinchak	1.0	0	1	1	1	1	18	1.17
Dodd	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.57
Hamilton	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	20	9.00
Iglesias	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.32

T: 2:52. **A:** 32,932 (41,149).

Rangers 4, Guardians 2

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	1	1	2	0	1	.241
Jung 3b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.297
Seager ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.182
Cauley ph-2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.143
Burger 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Duran rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.266
Carter cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.178
Osuna lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Díaz c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Lopez 2b-ss	3	1	1	0	0	0	.322
Totals	33	4	6	3	0	5	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
DeLauter dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.269
Manzardo 1b	3	1	1	2	0	1	.231
Rocchio ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Watson rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Fry ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Ingle lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.091
Schneemann ss	3	0	2	0	0	1	.219
Arias 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.206
Bailey c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.171
Kwan cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.212
Totals	32	2	5	2	0	12	

Texas	002 000 110 —	4	6	0
Cleveland	200 000 000 —	2	5	1

E: Ingle (1). **LOB:** Texas 2, Cleveland 3. **2B:** DeLauter (14). **HR:** Pederson (14), off Bibee; Jung (9), off Armstrong; Manzardo (10), off deGrom. **RBIs:** Pederson 2 (31), Jung (32), Manzardo 2 (29). **SB:** Schneemann (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 0; Cleveland 1 (Arias). **RISP:** Texas 0 for 1; Cleveland 1 for 2. **Runners moved up:** Carter.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
deGrom, W, 7-5	7.0	4	2	2	0	9	96	3.48
Gray, H, 4	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	3.03
Latz, S, 18-20	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	1.71

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bibee, L, 2-9	7.0	5	3	2	0	2	91	3.69
Armstrong	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	17	4.74
Espino	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	8.10

T: 2:12. **A:** 21,674 (34,788).

Brewers 7, Reds 2

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	1	2	0	0	1	.270
Stewart 1b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.257
Bleday lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.238
Suárez 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.205
Lowe dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.253
Marte rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.198
I.Johnson ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Arroyo 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Trevino c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.192
Friedl cf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.172
McLain ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.198
Totals	31	2	6	2	2	10	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	4	0	0	0	1	3	.256
Chourio lf	4	1	2	2	1	2	.295
Turang 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.259
Contreras c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.297
Bauers 1b	4	3	3	1	0	1	.272
Mitchell cf	4	1	2	1	0	2	.251
Frelick rf	4	1	3	1	0	0	.252
Ortiz ss	4	0	2	2	0	1	.208
Hamilton 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Totals	36	7	14	7	2	12	

Cincinnati	100 001 000 —	2	6	0
Milwaukee	010 410 01x —	7	14	0

LOB: Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 8. **2B:** De La Cruz (14), Stewart (19), Lowe (13), Frelick (13). **HR:** Stewart (16), off Sproat; Bauers (15), off Lowder; Chourio (12), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Stewart 2 (59), Mitchell (38), Frelick (31), Ortiz 2 (19), Chourio 2 (33), Bauers (50). **CS:** Suárez (1). **S:** Hamilton. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 3 (Bleday, Lowe, I.Johnson); Milwaukee 4 (Contreras 2, Hamilton, Ortiz). **RISP:** Cincinnati 1 for 8; Milwaukee 5 for 11. **GIDP:** Stewart, Contreras. **DP:** Cincinnati 1 (De La Cruz, Arroyo, Stewart); Milwaukee 1 (Ortiz, Turang, Bauers).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder, L, 3-6	4.2	11	6	6	1	8	82	5.31
Ferguson	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	18	1.76
Garcia	2.2	2	1	1	0	3	35	3.18

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sproat, W, 3-4	5.1	4	2	2	2	7	106	5.28
Patrick	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	18	3.72
Koenig	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	16	0.00
Anderson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	3.44

T: 2:32. **A:** 28,081 (41,700).

White Sox 9, Orioles 3

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Teel c	4	1	1	0	1	2	.231
Vargas 3b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Benintendi dh	4	1	3	1	1	1	.247
C.Montgomery ss	5	1	1	2	0	2	.221
B.Montgomery rf	3	1	0	0	2	1	.239
Meidroth 2b	3	1	0	0	2	1	.275
Peters cf	5	2	2	0	0	1	.286
Gonzalez 1b	5	1	3	3	0	1	.260
Perez lf	4	1	1	3	0	3	.250
Totals	38	9	11	9	6	13	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	5	2	2	0	0	0	.227
Ward dh	5	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Beavers lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.230
Alonso 1b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.249
Basallo c	3	0	2	1	1	0	.256
Taveras rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Cowser cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.228
Alexander 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.302
Holliday 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Totals	35	3	9	3	3	6	

Chicago	107 100 000 —	9	11	0
Baltimore	100 020 000 —	3	9	0

LOB: Chicago 8, Baltimore 8. **2B:** Benintendi (12), Gonzalez 2 (4), Henderson (16), Beavers (8). **HR:** C.Montgomery (21), off Gibson; Perez (2), off Gibson. **RBIs:** Benintendi (40), C.Montgomery 2 (49), Gonzalez 3 (17), Perez 3 (4), Basallo (37), Beavers (13), Alonso (59). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 4 (Vargas, Peters 2, Perez); Baltimore 4 (Taveras, Henderson 2, Ward). **RISP:** Chicago 3 for 9; Baltimore 3 for 9.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Fedde, W, 3-6	5.0	5	3	3	3	3	90	4.41
Schweitzer, S, 1-1	4.0	4	0	0	0	3	46	4.50

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gibson, L, 1-3	2.2	7	8	8	6	5	78	7.36
Walker	1.1	2	1	1	0	1	28	4.50
Kittredge	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	12	5.40
Suárez	3.0	1	0	0	0	4	41	3.63
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	2.52

T: 2:47. **A:** 17,581 (45,971).

Mariners 8, Angels 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	1	2	0	1	.227
Grissom 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.231
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.262
Soler dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.220
Meckler lf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.292
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Lowe cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.217
O'Hoppe c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.231
Walton 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.307
Totals	33	3	6	3	3	6	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.214
Rodríguez cf	5	2	3	0	0	1	.259
Naylor 1b	4	1	2	0	1	1	.257
Arozarena dh	4	2	2	1	0	2	.283
Raleigh c	3	1	0	0	1	2	.164
Young 2b	3	2	1	1	1	1	.261
Emerson ss	4	0	3	2	0	1	.218
Robles lf	4	0	1	1	0	2	.233
Wilson rf	4	0	1	2	0	3	.220
Totals	36	8	13	7	3	16	

Los Angeles	000 000 300 —	3	6	0
Seattle	000 005 30x —	8	13	1

E: Emerson (3). **LOB:** Los Angeles 6, Seattle 7. **2B:** Arozarena (20). **RBIs:** O'Hoppe (23), Neto 2 (42), Arozarena (37), Young (41), Wilson 2 (5), Emerson 2 (19), Robles (3). **SB:** Emerson (2), Wilson (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 3 (Schanuel, O'Hoppe, Neto); Seattle 4 (Crawford, Raleigh, Wilson 2). **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 9; Seattle 5 for 13.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Soriano, L, 8-5	5.0	6	3	3	1	9	91	3.42
Silseth	1.0	2	2	2	1	3	32	2.87
Suter	1.0	4	3	3	1	3	37	4.59
Zeferjahn	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	12	4.12

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo, W, 7-6	6.1	4	2	2	1	5	106	4.17
Bazardo	0.2	2	1	1	1	0	20	2.17
Rucker	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	7.36
Muñoz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	4.75

T: 2:54. **A:** 32,372 (47,929).

More MLB boxes, Page 47

CUP TO THE TASK

Liberty hold off Aces for second in-season tourney win since ’23

By MADELINE KENNEY

WHAT A NIGHT! Breanna Stewart (left) acknowledges the crowd after being named MVP of the Commissioner’s Cup Championship. Sabrina Ionescu (right), who finished with 26 points and five assists, pumps her fist after hitting a 3-pointer.

Getty Images; Noah K. Murray

The waft of champagne followed Sabrina Ionescu, Breanna Stewart and Chris DeMarco like a shadow as they walked up to the podium.

Tuesday night’s celebration following the Liberty’s 93-85 win against the Las Vegas Aces in the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup championship game was in full swing. Their booze-drenched shirts and ski goggles sitting on top of their heads were proof of it.

LIBERTY	**98**
ACES	**85**

“You can’t take these moments for granted,” DeMarco said. “Obviously, we have bigger goals this season — we want to win a WNBA championship. But this stuff matters, too. And if you can withstand the run that a team makes and find it, and our stars make big-time plays at the end of the game, lead us to victory, and that’s what winners do.”

The Liberty almost didn’t get that champagne celebration. They almost blew it.

New York squandered yet another double-digit second-half lead.

It was a story that had already been written multiple times this season.

But the Liberty dug deep and found a way.

It helps, of course, with Stewart on the floor. She’s the fearless leader of this group who was crowned MVP of Tuesday’s championship win after finishing with 25 points, 11 rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocks.

“I would trust Stewie with my life, honestly,” Fiebich said. “She’s a great person, player … she does a lot for the team that doesn’t show up on the stat sheet.”

Tuesday was the night the Liberty had to say enough is enough.

New York has blown too many double-digit leads to count, including an embarrassing 17-point advantage in a loss to the Los Angeles Sparks.

Not this time.

Jackie Young almost single-handedly erased the Liberty’s 17-point advantage. She led the Aces with a game-high 31 points (25 of which were scored in the second half).

Early in the fourth, Young stole the ball and turned it into a game-tying layup. She drained a go-ahead basket with 7:25 left.

But the Liberty responded.

Jonquel Jones forcefully pulled down a rebound and passed it off to Ionescu, who looked up the court and saw Pauline Astier on the run.

Ionescu passed the rock up to Astier, who laid it in.

The Barclays Center crowd went wild. Ionescu emphatically fist-pumped the air. Then, she pulled her rookie point guard in for a hug.

Astier’s layup punctuated the Liberty’s 10-0 run and forced Aces coach Becky Hammon to take a timeout.

The Aces didn’t back down.

But the Liberty held on.

In hindsight, Leonie Fiebich said, it never felt like the Liberty ever lost control of the game even when the score got close.

“The feeling was different today,” she said. “We were executing our game plan really well … we were fine.”

The Liberty became the first franchise in the league to win multiple in-season tournaments. They last won in 2023. They went to the Cup finals a year later but lost to the Minnesota Lynx.

“[The win] kind of sets the foundation for who we are and how we want to compete every single night,” Ionescu said. “Obviously, this was a huge team win for us, but I think just understanding the identity that we want to have as a team and how we want teams to feel when we come out there and we play a full 40 minutes.”

DeMarco’s message to the team after the win was brief.

“You have to embrace this,” he said. “We’re in there, pouring champagne on each other, like these moments matter, winning matters. And so that’s really what I’ll take from this.”

mkenney@nypost.com

Ionescu finally finds groove in ‘special’ victory

By MADELINE KENNEY

Sabrina Ionescu planted her feet and let the ball fly.

It fell through the net Tuesday night, and she celebrated by waving finger guns.

Finally.

For two weeks, Ionescu had been searching for her shot and fit within a new system that matured without her. She looked off a count in an offensive dance she usually leads. She couldn’t shake the rust that made her look like a shell of the superstar she is.

For two weeks, Ionescu has been trying to give herself grace, preaching patience and focusing on her next opportunity to get right.

On Tuesday, in front of a packed Barclays Center, Ionescu finally broke through.

And what a night to do so.

Ionescu drained the dagger 3 with 16.8 seconds left. She finished with a team-high 26 points to help lift the Liberty to a 93-85 win against the Las Vegas Aces to capture this year’s WNBA Commissioner’s Cup championship.

“SA-BRI-NA” chants echoed from the home crowd during the team’s on-court celebration.

“It was special,” Ionescu said. “I’ve always continued to have that belief in myself … an injury is not gonna diminish my understanding of who I am and the work that I’ve put in to get where I am today.”

It was refreshing to see Ionescu play like herself again. It was like she had been reminded she’s Sabrina Elaine Ionescu, a four-time WNBA All-Star who’s one of the league’s best sharpshooters. She played her way, and it flowed well within the Liberty’s plans.

Ionescu scored the Liberty’s first eight points to help New York take an early 10-2 lead. She had a season-high 17 points by halftime.

In the second half, she found her flow as a facilitator, dishing out all five of her assists in the final two quarters.

Ionescu had a tough start to the season. Outside of suffering a season-ending injury three games into her rookie season, Ionescu had never missed this much time in a season and tried to return.

Ionescu injured her left foot in the Liberty’s final preseason tune-up, which sidelined her for the first two weeks of the season. She returned for one game before back soreness flared up.

At first, coach Chris DeMarco said Ionescu was day to day. She ultimately was sidelined for three weeks. Ionescu received the green light to return to play June 14. She repeatedly said she felt physically fine but didn’t look like it.

In the seven games leading up to Tuesday, Ionescu averaged 9.3 points, 3.6 rebounds and 2.9 assists while shooting 36.5 percent from the field and 29 percent from deep.

Tuesday was Ionescu’s welcome-back party. She drained five 3s, grabbed five rebounds and had five assists to finish a team-best plus-19.

“Her game never takes me by surprise,” Aces coach Becky Hammon said.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

If you get the chance to make some quick cash today, then take it, but don't lose sight of the fact that there are more important things in life than making money. Besides, why spend a fortune when true love can be had for free?

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Whatever your number one passion is in life, that is what you should now be focusing on with all your mind and all your heart. The efforts you put in over the next few days will pay off in a big way later in the month.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Ignore the doom and gloom merchants and allow yourself to believe that life is not only good but getting better by the hour and by the day. It has never been more true that your thoughts create your reality, so think big at all times.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Take time out of your busy schedule to remind yourself that what's going on in your life is part of the cosmic plan. It may seem as if so much is chaotic but that's only because you are looking at it from too narrow an angle.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Go out of your way to make a good impression on people in positions of power. With Jupiter and Venus moving through the career area of your chart, you can get anything and everything you desire, just by laying on the charm.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You are at your best when starting something new, but you are at your worst when you get bored and leave projects unfinished. The message of the stars today is that you must complete what you started. You can't move on until you do.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

It may be maddening to know that something is being kept from you, but you need to lighten up a little. Whatever that something may be, it does not have the power to deflect you away from your dreams, so you can safely ignore it.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You seem to be flavor of the month at the moment, and that's great, but don't start thinking that nothing can ever go wrong because that will give the universe the invitation it needs to come down on you hard. Keep your ego in check.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You cannot evade your problems by running away from them. You may not want to face up to a situation you have been dreading, but it's unlikely to be as painful as you fear, so confront it now while the cosmic force is with you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

If someone you should be able to trust has betrayed you it's inevitable that you will respond, but try not to go over the top about it. By all means make it clear you are disappointed by their behavior, but don't make a vendetta out of it.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

It's OK to back a hunch but make sure you do your homework as well. The more you look into a situation today, the more reasons you will find to be careful, so be bold but be sensible too about what you can hope to accomplish.

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Venus in the most sociable area of your chart bodes well for arrangements you make with other people. This is one of the very best times of the year to get out and about and have fun with those who share your lust for life.

BIRTHDAY WEDNESDAY

A new arrival in your neighborhood will do wonders for your love life this year. Let them know right from the start that you think they are potentially the best thing that has ever happened to you. Then be the best thing that has ever happened to them.

Post Weather Report

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Wednesday

HOT

Today: Very hot; a t-storm around in the p.m.. High 92 to 98.

Tonight: Mainly clear and very warm. Low 78 to 84.

Thursday

HOT

Tomorrow: Very hot. High 97 to 103.

Tomorrow night: Mainly clear and very warm. Low 79 to 85.

Friday

Very hot. High 97 to 103.

HOT

Evening

T-storm possible. Low 78 to 84.

Saturday

A heavy t-storm. High 92 to 98.

Evening

A t-storm around. Low 72 to 78.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

Temperature

High: 87, Low: 73, Mean: 80

Departure from Normal

Yesterday: +4 degrees

Precipitation

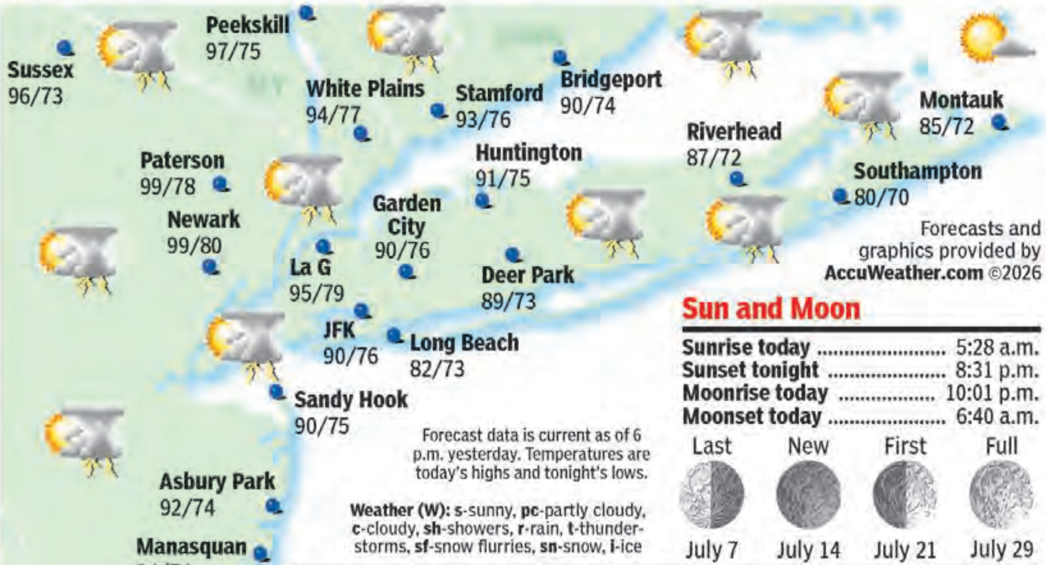
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 3.39",
Year: 17.82", Normal year to date: 23.71"

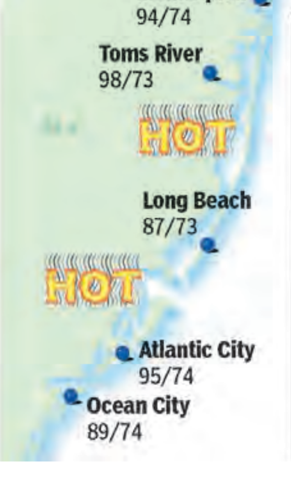
Cooling Degree days yesterday	15
Total for the month (normal)	262 (227)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)	400 (308)
Last year to date	329
Heat Index (at noon yest.)	87
UV index (for Wed.)	11 (Extreme)
Humidity (at noon)	56%

AIR QUALITY

Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Grasses, Weeds

AQI rating: (for Wed.) ....Moderate


Sussex
96/73
Peekskill
97/75
White Plains
94/77
Stamford
93/76
Bridgeport
90/74
Riverhead
87/72
Montauk
85/72
Paterson
99/78
Huntington
91/75
Southampton
80/70
Newark
99/80
Garden City
90/76
La G
95/79
Deer Park
89/73
JFK
90/76
Long Beach
82/73
Sandy Hook
90/75


Asbury Park
92/74
Manasquan
94/74
Toms River
98/73
HOT
Long Beach
87/73
HOT
Atlantic City
95/74
Ocean City
89/74

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

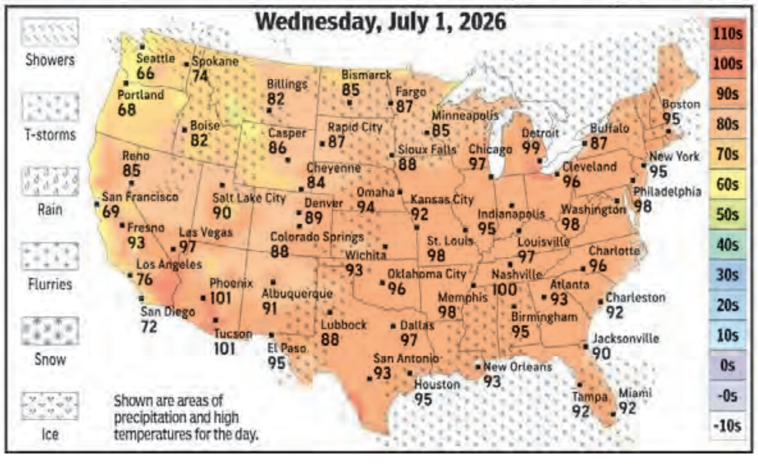
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	5:28 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:31 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:01 p.m.
Moonset today	6:40 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
July 7	July 14	July 21	July 29

Wednesday, July 1, 2026


Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 66
Spokane 74
Portland 68
Billings 82
Bismarck 85
Fargo 87
Boise 82
Casper 86
Rapid City 87
Minneapolis 85
Reno 85
Cheyenne 84
Sioux Falls 88
Chicago 97
Detroit 99
Buffalo 87
Boston 95
New York 95
Cleveland 96
Philadelphia 98
San Francisco 69
Salt Lake City 90
Denver 89
Omaha 94
Kansas City 92
Indianapolis 95
Washington 98
Fresno 93
Las Vegas 97
Colorado Springs 88
Wichita 93
St. Louis 98
Louisville 97
Charlotte 96
Los Angeles 76
Phoenix 101
Albuquerque 91
Oklahoma City 96
Nashville 100
Atlanta 93
Memphis 98
Charleston 92
San Diego 72
Tucson 101
El Paso 95
Lubbock 88
Dallas 97
Birmingham 95
Jacksonville 90
San Antonio 93
Houston 95
New Orleans 93
Tampa 92
Miami 92
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	9:28a	9:32p	10:08a	10:08p
Fire Island	9:21a	9:48p	10:01a	10:26p
Hempstead	12:36a	1:14p	1:08a	1:43p
Huntington	12:40a	1:14p	1:17a	1:50p
Jones Inlet	9:12a	9:16p	9:52a	9:52p
Montauk Point	10:58a	11:08p	11:45a	11:48p
Port Washington	12:36a	1:19p	1:06a	1:41p
Sandy Hook	9:32a	9:36p	10:12a	10:12p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	95/75/t	99/78/pc
Danbury	97/73/t	101/75/pc
Glens Falls	94/74/t	99/71/t
Gr Barrington	94/71/t	97/71/pc
Kingston	98/74/t	102/73/pc
Liberty	93/70/t	94/71/s
Monticello	93/71/t	93/71/s
Newburgh	99/75/t	101/75/s
Poughkeepsie	99/74/t	102/74/pc
Saratoga Springs	94/72/t	98/77/pc
Stroudsburg	97/72/t	100/73/s
Torrington	98/72/t	98/75/pc
Syracuse	95/76/t	99/75/s

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	93/71/s	92/73/s
Baghdad	113/89/s	116/88/pc
Beijing	88/71/c	92/73/pc
Berlin	72/57/c	81/58/pc
Cairo	98/73/pc	96/75/pc
Dublin	70/54/c	70/52/c
Geneva	79/60/sh	85/60/s
Hong Kong	94/83/sh	94/82/r
Jerusalem	86/68/s	85/67/s
Kabul	92/70/pc	89/65/pc
London	80/61/pc	80/55/pc
Madrid	101/63/pc	96/65/s
Mexico City	71/55/r	73/56/r
Montreal	91/76/t	91/73/t
Moscow	82/61/s	85/66/pc
Paris	82/60/pc	84/59/pc
Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	81/68/s
Rome	91/73/s	83/71/t
Sydney	70/63/pc	74/58/s
Tokyo	84/70/c	76/69/sh

THEY'RE ON THE DEFENSIVE

Rangers still have holes on blue line they hope free agency can help fill

By MOLLIE WALKER

The dropoff after Vladislav Gavrikov on the left side of the Rangers defense corps is considerable and remains a priority as free agency begins at noon Wednesday.

Finishing this past season with 21-year-old Drew Fortescue and Matthew Robertson, a career AHLer up until that campaign, as their second- and third-pair lefty defensemen, respectively, the Blueshirts recognize the need to fortify the back end if the team hopes to return to contending status.

The Rangers just added Alberts Smits, a left-handed defenseman they drafted fifth overall this past weekend, to the mix.

Depending on how training camp unfolds, it's possible that Smits gets his opportunity sooner rather than later. There is an expectation, however, that the position will be bolstered either via free agency or a trade.

The Rangers are believed to be targeting restricted free agent Alexander Nikishin of the Stanley Cup champion Hurricanes.

A third-rounder in 2020 out of Russia's Kontinental Hockey League, Nikishin set franchise records for a rookie defenseman with 11 goals and 33 points on his way to All-Rookie team honors this past season.

Nikishin wouldn't just fill a need positionally, but also functionally. With Adam Fox sidelined for a good portion of the season due to injuries, the Rangers were one of the worst breakout teams in the NHL.

Not only is Nikishin a confident puck mover, but the 24-year-old Russian initiates controlled zone exits. He has a strong first pass and uses his high-end skating ability to his advantage.

Mario Ferraro is one of the younger defense options expected to hit free agency on Wednesday.

While Ferraro is reportedly in search of a long-term deal the Rangers might not be willing to commit to, the 27-year-old is a defensive-minded blueliner who eats minutes and brings a physically imposing presence.

Since the departure of Jacob Trouba, the Rangers have long wanted to add more physicality on defense.

Matt Grzelcyk, a 32-year-old veteran of nearly 600 games, could also be an option to consider.

Under Rangers head coach Mike Sullivan during his time in Pittsburgh, Grzelcyk set a career high with 40 points (one goal, 39 assists) in 2024-25.

Fortescue, who is participating in prospect development camp this week, did better than the Rangers expected through his first nine games, according to a source with knowledge of the team's thinking.

After making the jump from college to the pros and burning a year of his entry-level contract, however, there is an expectation that he'll need some more time to develop.

The Rangers experimented with swapping both Will Borgen and Braden Schneider to the left, but neither stuck for more than a handful of games. Considering Schneider has been a trade chip this summer, the need for defensive reinforcements becomes even more pressing if he ends up playing elsewhere next season.

Robertson made for an inspirational story last season, breaking into the NHL after years of marinating in the AHL without a single hint of an opportunity, though he projects more as a seventh defenseman at the NHL level.

Sullivan didn't seem to have much trust in Urho Vaakanainen last season. The Finn was limited to 34 games, which further implies that the Rangers will be looking to pad their defensive depth more.

The makeover is far from finished.

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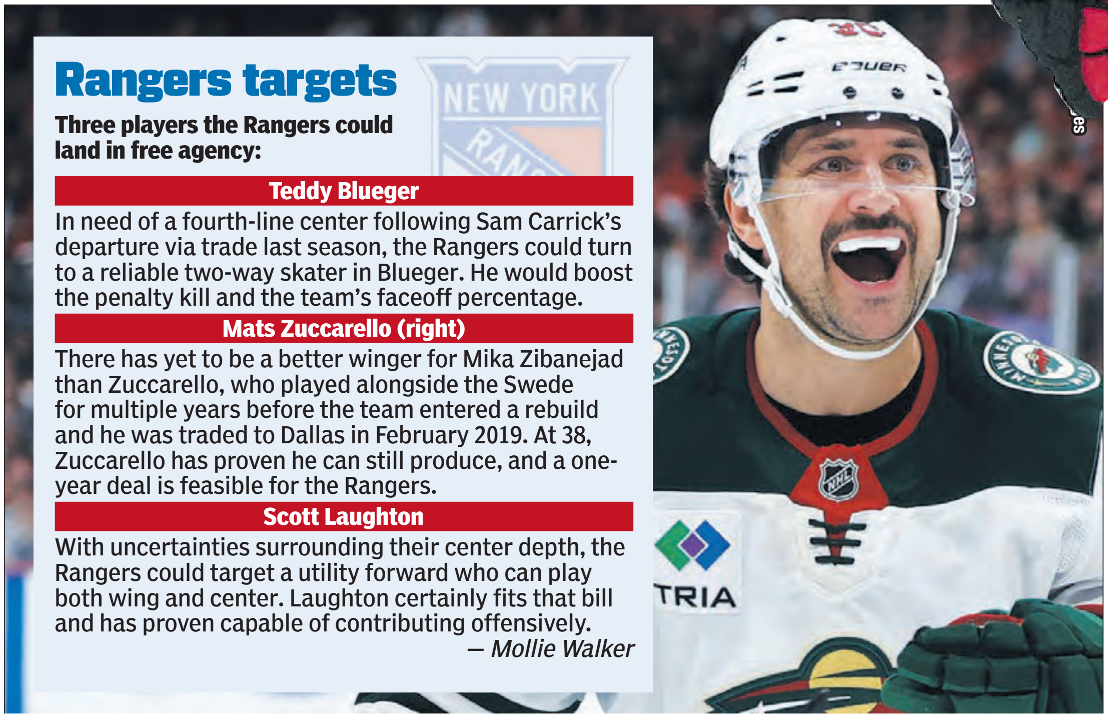


Rangers targets

Three players the Rangers could land in free agency:

Teddy Blueger

In need of a fourth-line center following Sam Carrick's departure via trade last season, the Rangers could turn to a reliable two-way skater in Blueger. He would boost the penalty kill and the team's faceoff percentage.

Mats Zuccarello (right)

There has yet to be a better winger for Mika Zibanejad than Zuccarello, who played alongside the Swede for multiple years before the team entered a rebuild and he was traded to Dallas in February 2019. At 38, Zuccarello has proven he can still produce, and a one-year deal is feasible for the Rangers.

Scott Laughton

With uncertainties surrounding their center depth, the Rangers could target a utility forward who can play both wing and center. Laughton certainly fits that bill and has proven capable of contributing offensively.

— Mollie Walker

SIGN OF THE TIMES: With free agency upon us, the Rangers could once again shore up their thin defense corps by signing the Hurricanes' Alexander Nikishin. _ AP

Nothing big on horizon

By ANDREW CRANE

The comment was telling. And though anything can change once noon hits Wednesday and free agency officially begins, general manager Mathieu Darche dropped a major hint in the aftermath of the NHL draft — when he addressed reporters on Zoom and said that, in part, "I don't expect any significant, significant changes."

It marked the latest sign of how the individual in charge of the Islanders feels about the current class of free agents. That means the Islanders might not create the splashy headlines. That means their signings might be more about pivots — with captain Anders Lee set to test the open market — and depth, with somewhere between $6 million and $10 million to work with, according to PuckPedia. Everything that happens over the next day and beyond will tie back to Lee's decision, to the ramifications on the Islanders top six, to who takes their captaincy next.

Darche knows that plenty of July 1 deals haunt teams in future seasons. He knows that, to other teams, a signing "might not look sexy because you're not jumping in on something but sometimes might be the right thing to do," he said Saturday. And based on his comments to this point, the Islanders might veer toward the latter once the cycle opens.

Should Lee exit, the Islanders will be forced to replace a key piece of their lineup who, at 35 years old, is coming off a season when he collected 19 goals and 42 points. He fell short of 20 goals in a full season for the first time since 2015-16, but Lee, perhaps more than any Islander not named Matthew Schaefer, remains an essential piece of their identity.

But Lee informed the Islanders of his decision Tuesday to test the market despite Darche improving his offer, according to TSN. A return to Long Island remains a possibility. They'll have to fend off external competitors now, though, and potentially sign a replacement such as Mason Marchment — a 31-year-old who split last season with the Kraken and Blue Jackets, recording 19 goals and 45 points. Marchment, who just completed a four-year deal worth $18 million, would fill the left-wing vacancy, but it'd be almost impossible to replace a face of the franchise who just spent the past 14 seasons with the organization.

The Islanders also have spots to fill around the margins, needing a fourth-line forward to replace Marc Gatcomb, who didn't receive a qualifying offer, and a third goaltender in case Semyon Varlamov isn't ready to return next season. They could sign a right-handed defenseman, but Darche said last week that they want to give Isaiah George — who skates on the left side but can on the right, too — every chance to crack the NHL roster as a 22-year-old.

"If there's an opportunity to improve the team, I will do it," Darche said last week. "We'll go from there."

But those moves and signings all pale in comparison to Lee's decision. That domino, more than any other, will determine what else factors into the Islanders' plans as the market takes shape.

— Ethan Sears contributed to this report.

acrane@nypost.com

Islanders targets

Three players the Islanders could land in free agency:

Mason Marchment (right)

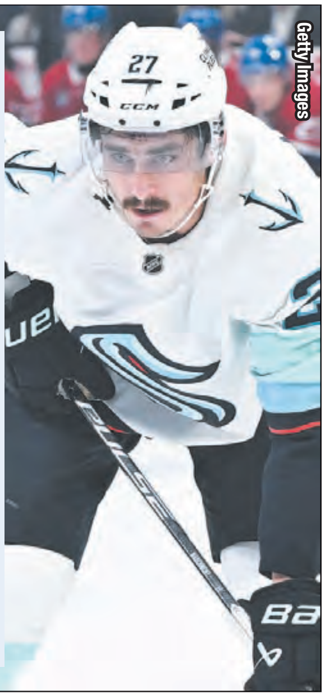
Marchment could be the Islanders pivot if Anders Lee departs, and he's a forward with a left-handed shot whose stat line (19-26-45) almost mirrored Lee's numbers (19-23-42).

Daniil Tarasov

While the Islanders expect Semyon Varlamov to make his long-awaited return next season, Tarasov, who went 13-15-3 last season with the Panthers, could provide some insurance behind Ilya Sorokin.

Mathieu Joseph

The Islanders' decision not to give Marc Gatcomb a qualifying offer leaves an opening on the right side of their fourth line, and Joseph, who contributed to two Stanley Cup-winning teams in Tampa Bay when Darche was the Lightning's president of hockey operations, could be a fit. *— Andrew Crane*



Getty Images

Captain Lee to hit open market

By ANDREW CRANE

The expected path for Anders Lee once free agency begins Wednesday is now the official path for the Islanders captain.

Lee will test the market despite the Islanders improving their offer, according to TSN, and though the Islanders remain an option, he'll reportedly listen to offers from other teams. If Lee departs, it will mark the end of a 14-year tenure with the Islanders that started in 2009 as a sixth-round draft pick, reached the NHL three years later when he debuted and then took on a deeper meaning when he became captain in 2018. And if Lee returns, it will signify that he and general manager Mathieu Darche found some way to compromise just before negotiations reached the point of no return with Lee signing elsewhere.

When asked about the status of Lee and negotiations Friday, Darche said he was still talking with agent Neil Sheehy. "We'll see what happens in the next three days," Darche added. The 35-year-old Lee remained an integral piece of the Islanders lineup last season, even if he fell short of 20 goals for the first time in a full season since 2015-16.

Now that conclusion, at least when it comes to Lee testing the market, has settled into place. It's a risky one, especially if Lee ends up departing. It serves as a jarring flashback to 2018, months before Lee took on the captaincy, when John Tavares also walked July 1. It would instantly become the primary question the Islanders face in free agency.

As the 2025-26 season neared its conclusion, Lee said he wanted to finish his career with the only organization he has ever known. His seven-year, $49 million deal that he signed in July 2019 and that will expire at noon Wednesday captured his place as a franchise cornerstone, and the numbers — 308 goals and 549 points across regular-season games — only added to that.

"It's where I've played my entire career," Lee said in April. "It's where I've put my best foot forward as much as I can. I don't take anything for granted."

If Lee departs for another deal and a compromise cannot be reached, the Islanders will assemble for the 2026-27 campaign and instantly stare down a major void in their lineup. That would be the most daunting reality check of all.

Judge weeks from next checkpoint before return

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

YANKEES NOTES

Aaron Judge is "starting to feel better," Aaron Boone said, though that feeling has not yet translated into concrete progress toward a return.

Thursday will mark four weeks since the Yankees announced their captain had suffered a stress fracture of a rib and would undergo additional medical imaging in "approximately four to six weeks."

He will not be reexamined on the shortest end of the given spectrum, Boone saying Tuesday that Judge is weeks away from a scan that would check for healing.

But in his dealings with Judge, Boone said the feedback has improved.

"He was uncomfortable there for a while," the Yankees manager said before playing the Tigers in The Bronx on Tuesday. "It seems like the normal stuff is starting to feel better, so hopefully that's a good sign of hopefully some healing."

Judge believed he suffered the stress fracture during a dive in Houston on April 26, and he struggled for weeks trying to play through it before opting for tests in early June.

Since then, the best hitter in baseball has not been "able to do much," Boone said, "and certainly not able to do any baseball activities." Judge has been able to work out in the weight room and strengthen his lower body.

Any return timetable remains elusive.

"It does seem like this week he is starting to feel better, which is encouraging," Boone said.

➤ After crashing into **Jasson Domínguez** a day prior, **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** said he felt better and believed he would be available off the bench, though Boone said the second baseman only would be used in an emergency.

Chisholm believed he would be cleared from the concussion protocol. Boone said he didn't know whether Chisholm would play Wednesday, and **José Caballero** started at second base Tuesday.

Chisholm left Monday's loss in the fourth inning after he chased a shallow fly ball and was clotheslined by Domínguez, who made the catch.

"Felt like I got punched in the face," Chisholm said.

➤ **Cody Bellinger**, who had played in 83 of the first 84 games this season, sat for a second time amid a deep slump. In his previous 12 games, Bellinger had gone 5-for-41 (.122) with a .396 OPS.

"He'll get corrected and get it going here," Boone said. "Hopefully giving him at least the start off tonight kind of lets him take a step back for a second and hopefully get it going."

➤ Call-up **Yovanny Cruz** pitched two perfect innings with three strikeouts. Cruz threw five pitches above 100 mph and maxed out at 101.5 mph.

OUCH! Aaron Judge cites a diving play at Houston on April 26 as the possible origin of a stress fracture that has him sidelined. He is not expected to get another scan for weeks yet, according to Aaron Boone.

Getty Images

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Fried sharp vs. BP hitters

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Standing behind home plate as he watched the beginning of the simulated game, pitching coach Matt Blake took in a few pitches before turning around and shouting to a few members of the Yankees' front office.

"Good deadline acquisition," Blake yelled with a smile.

Max Fried does not yet have a firm timetable to return, but his positive progression grew a bit more tangible Tuesday.

For the first time since exiting a game in Baltimore on May 13, the Yankees lefty faced hitters again. He threw 28 pitches in two simulated innings to Ryan McMahon and Trent Grisham, looked encouraged coming off the mound and looked like himself on it.

"I've faced him a couple times [in my career]. It's never fun," McMahon said. "It still wasn't fun today. So it definitely looks like Max Fried."

The sight of Fried pitching again was enticing enough to fill the Yankees' dugout about four hours before the first pitch of the night's game against the Tigers.

Fried is recovering from a left elbow bone bruise that has cost him about seven weeks and counting, but the injury was less serious than originally feared, since his UCL was OK.

He had been throwing throughout his downtime on the injured list but has gotten the green light to begin building up. The next step for Fried is another live session Sunday, so he does not have a date yet even for a rehab assignment and figures to be at least a month away.

But barring a setback, the Yankees will have another ace to reincorporate into the rotation during the second half.

"Looked great. Like, really good," Aaron Boone said. "Stuff was good. I thought he was really sharp. From the side there, it looked like good Max Fried."

MAGNIFIQUE

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Kylian Mbappé celebrates after scoring two more goals — his third multigoal match of the World Cup — in France's demolition of Sweden. Charles Wenzelberg/NY Post

Mbappé puts on another MetLife show as France looks ready for return to final

By HOWIE KUSSOY

For the second time in as many weeks, Kylian Mbappé put on an unforgettable show at MetLife Stadium.

And from the looks of it, the French superstar will return to New Jersey for an encore.

France continued its perfect run at the World Cup with another dominant showing in Tuesday's 3-0 win over Sweden in the Round of 32, moving one step closer to the July 19 final at the Meadowlands, following Mbappé's third multigoal match of the tournament.

FRANCE	**3**	**World Cup Round of 32**
SWEDEN	**0**	

The French captain opened the scoring at the close of the first half, then pulled even with Lionel Messi in the Golden Boot race by scoring his sixth goal of the tournament in the 74th minute, while claiming sole possession of second place all-time in World Cup goals (18). Mbappé, 27, trails Messi by one goal for the record but is more than 11 years younger and has played 11 fewer World Cup matches.

"I don't watch what Messi does. He has always scored, and he will always score," said Mbappé, who posed for a postgame picture with another legend (OG Anunoby). "I just think about helping my team."

France became the first team in World Cup history to win three straight matches by at least three goals and score at least three goals in five straight matches, enlarging its tournament-best goal differential (plus-11) after earning three group stage wins for the first time since winning the 1998 World Cup.

Instead of a heavyweight bout against Germany in the Round of 16, France will next face a Cinderella squad from Paraguay on July 4 in Philadelphia. A now-favorable path for the World Cup favorite — looking to become the third team in tournament history to reach three consecutive finals — would feature a potential quarterfinal match against Morocco or Canada.

"I personally haven't seen a better team," Swedish manager Graham Potter said. "We had to be perfect. And even if we were, I'm not sure it would've been enough."

Mbappé, who scored twice in the tournament-opening win over Senegal at MetLife Stadium, was frustrated throughout the first half. He was called offside while finishing a breakaway in the 20th minute, then hit the post in the 31st minute, prompting him to raise his arms to the sky, searching for answers.

But in the 45th minute, the inevitable arrived.

In a matter of seconds, Mbappé justified the exorbitant price of admission, performing a beautiful stepover before splitting defenders and burying a shot in the side of the net. The face of a nation smiled wide, running and pointing at his jubilant manager Didier Deschamps, who was embraced by one of the world's best, then by several more of Les Bleus after missing the previous game due to his mother's death.

"It is the DNA of this group," Mbappé said. "We are all together ... he knows that he will never be alone with us."

When Mbappé left the stage in the 85th minute, Deschamps turned to his captain and bowed, dumbfounded and delighted, watching a legend grow larger by the game.

"He has been exemplary since Day 1," Deschamps said. "The collective strength [of this team] is above everything, and Kylian, the captain, is the best shining example."

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Mexico advances, ends 40-year knockout drought

Associated Press

Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez scored goals in a nine-minute span in the first half and Mexico defeated Ecuador 2-0 on Tuesday night in Mexico City to break a 40-year drought without a win in the knockout stage and progressed to the World Cup round of 16.

Quiñones opened the scoring in the 22nd minute while Jiménez added a strike in the 31st minute for the Mexicans, who had not won a knockout-stage match since defeating Bulgaria in the round of 16 when they hosted the tournament in 1986. Mexico subsequently lost seven consecutive times at that same stage from 1994 to 2018.

In Qatar 2022, they were eliminated in the group stage for the first time since Argentina in 1978.

It was Quiñones third goal of the tournament and he is now El Tri's second-best scorer in World Cup history behind Luis "Matador" Hernández and Javier "Chicharito" Hernández, who scored four each.

Jiménez scored his second goal of the tournament and has 47 with the national team to break a tie with Jared Borgetti. He is five away from tying "Chicharito" Hernández as the all-time leading scorer for Mexico.

Mexico will play another home match Sunday against the winner of Wednesday's match between England and Congo.

ROUNDUP

Norway 2, Ivory Coast 1

In Arlington, Texas, Erling Haaland savored the moment after Norway won a knockout game at the World Cup for the first time, a celebration that included a horned helmet atop his head and again sitting on the field with teammates to do the Viking Row in synch with their red-clad fans.

"This is unbelievable. This is history," Haaland said on the field after the game.

A slight tap from Haaland's left foot in the 86th minute was the difference as Norway beat Ivory Coast, setting up another World Cup match against five-time champion Brazil — 28 years after a win that many consider the greatest ever for the Norwegians.

For now, they prefer to enjoy their latest accomplishment.

"What we're going to think about now is to enjoy the win today. We're really happy and proud of ourselves," said Martin Odeegaard, the team's captain who banged the drum to set the pace for the postgame row.

AH ... SHOOT!

U.S. coach has plan if team faces penalty shootout

ICE MAN: Goalie Matt Freese said he is ready if the United States is forced to go into penalty kicks, as two of the first three Round of 32 games did Monday. "Penalties are my thing," Freese said.
AP

By MICHAEL DUARTE

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — There is no crueler way to end a World Cup.

A penalty shootout where talent and tactics go out the window in the span of five kicks. Where months of preparation and years of sacrifice can disappear into a goalkeeper's gloves or sail over a crossbar.

As we discovered Monday, the knockout stage has a way of reducing the world's biggest sporting event to its most unforgiving exam.

United States players watched Germany fall to Paraguay from their team flight to San Jose and the Netherlands bow out against Morocco from the hotel after two dramatic penalty shootouts. They were captivated like the rest of us, but they were also taking mental notes.

"In the moment I was a fan, then I realized that we're also in the same tournament," defender Chris Richards said. "We saw two upsets [Monday], so we're making sure we don't allow that to happen to us."

Germany's exit became a cautionary tale for the Americans. Defender Jonathan Tah had to shoulder the pressure after several experienced players reportedly hesitated to take a kick in the extra round. In his first career penalty, Tah's attempt sailed high over the crossbar and into the seats.

That scene is exactly what the U.S. insists will not happen to it against Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday.

Speaking Tuesday at PayPal Park in San Jose, multiple members of the U.S. squad said that penalty kicks have become a consistent part of their training routine. Nobody wants to discover who is willing to volunteer after 120 exhausting minutes. But they are preparing now just in case.

"I don't want to give away too much, but we are working on them and providing tools to players to improve them," U.S. head coach Mauricio Pochettino said. "We know it's impossible to replicate the stress, pressure and emotions of that situation, but we are trying."

MAURICIO POCHETTINO

Both the manager and the players revealed that if the Americans find themselves embroiled in a penalty shootout, Pochettino would decide the pecking order of who takes them.

Christian Pulisic remains the obvious choice to lead off or anchor the group if he's still on the pitch after 120 minutes.

Folarin Balogun is the team's leading scorer, and his confidence in front of goal makes him a clear choice. He's taken 25 in his career and made 17.

Ricardo Pepi could come on as a substitute at some point in the match. He's taken 10 penalties in his career and made eight.

Gio Reyna has taken five and is perfect from the spot. Tyler Adams has taken two in his club career and made his only attempt for the U.S. against Costa Rica during the 2025 Gold Cup quarterfinals. Malik Tillman (five), Sebastian Berhalter (two) and Alex Freeman (two) all stepped up and took penalties in that match as well and could be called upon if extra rounds become necessary.

"I'm confident in the way I take PKs," said Tillman, who volunteered if called upon.

Then there is perhaps the Americans' greatest weapon: goalkeeper Matt Freese, whose nickname "Matty Ice" comes from his elite penalty saves. He famously dedicated a research project during his time at Harvard to penalty-kick analytics, studying biomechanics, shooting tendencies and subtle body movements to improve his chances from the line.

"Penalties are my thing," he said after stopping three against Costa Rica.

The U.S. is 6-5 all time in penalty shootouts, including victories over Canada and Costa Rica in the past three years. Remarkably, the Americans have never played a penalty shootout in a World Cup.

That statistic could survive another year, or history could finally demand five volunteers brave enough to walk toward the spot with a nation's dreams hanging in the balance.

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B&H star goes from Wis. to taking on U.S. at World Cup

By COLLIN WARD

Bosnia-Herzegovina forward Esmir Bajraktarevic will face his country of birth, the United States, in a World Cup knockout stage game Wednesday.

The 21-year-old's parents emigrated to the United States from Bosnia after fleeing the Srebrenica massacre and settled in Appleton, Wis., where he grew up playing for MLS NEXT side SC Wave.

Bajraktarevic was bound for the big stage since he could walk, always having the ball at his feet and working on his first touch.

"Everyone else is talking about video games. He was only into just becoming a better soccer player," SC Wave coach Shan Amini said.

That work ethic is what made Bajraktarevic "the best player [Amini's] ever seen come out of the state of Wisconsin."

It's also what caught the eye of multiple youth-level USMNT coaches and the New England Revolution, where he made 45 appearances.

In 2024, though, despite already making one appearance for the United States senior team, family ties to the war-scarred country and coaching uncertainty in the U.S. drew him to switch his international allegiance to Bosnia.

Bajraktarevic became an instant sensation for the Balkan country after scoring the winning penalty against Italy, qualifying the team for the World Cup.

Now, Amini believes the Wisconsin native is ready for an even bigger moment.

"I think that his mindset is going to be, 'Hey, this is my opportunity in front of the country that I grew up in to really represent well,' " Amini told The Post. "I think he's going to want to rise to that level and that challenge, and I'm expecting a great game out of him."

Wednesday's match is Bosnia's first knockout stage appearance and just the country's seventh World Cup game.

Bajraktarevic will have his work cut out for him to advance to the Round of 16, but Amini thinks his confidence should suppress the nerves.

Amini also thinks playing in the United States will help Bajraktarevic.

He spent his entire youth career traveling around the country while playing for SC Wave and MLS academy sides and is familiar with the World Cup locations.

"Knowing the person that he is, I'm sure he's helping his teammates adjust quite a bit," Amini said. "There's nothing unfamiliar for him in these venues. I think he's going to be relaxed, comfortable, and he's probably going to make it easier on his teammates, too."

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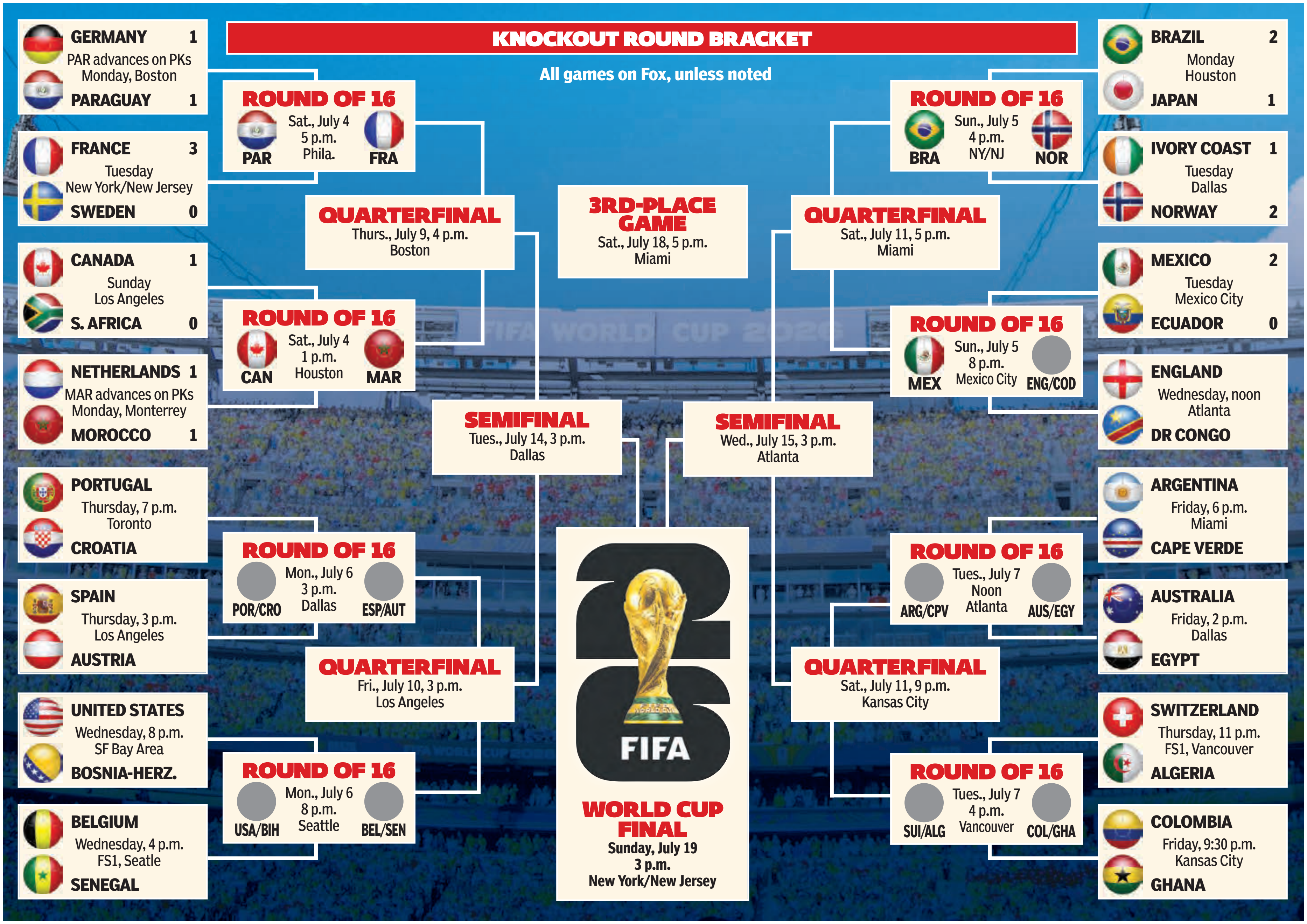

KNOCKOUT ROUND BRACKET

All games on Fox, unless noted

GERMANY 1
PAR advances on PKs
Monday, Boston
PARAGUAY 1

FRANCE 3
Tuesday
New York/New Jersey
SWEDEN 0

CANADA 1
Sunday
Los Angeles
S. AFRICA 0

NETHERLANDS 1
MAR advances on PKs
Monday, Monterrey
MOROCCO 1

PORTUGAL
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Toronto
CROATIA

SPAIN
Thursday, 3 p.m.
Los Angeles
AUSTRIA

UNITED STATES
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
SF Bay Area
BOSNIA-HERZ.

BELGIUM
Wednesday, 4 p.m.
FS1, Seatle
SENEGAL

ROUND OF 16
PAR Sat., July 4
5 p.m.
Phila. **FRA**

ROUND OF 16
CAN Sat., July 4
1 p.m.
Houston **MAR**

ROUND OF 16
POR/CRO Mon., July 6
3 p.m.
Dallas **ESP/AUT**

ROUND OF 16
USA/BIH Mon., July 6
8 p.m.
Seattle **BEL/SEN**

QUARTERFINAL
Thurs., July 9, 4 p.m.
Boston

QUARTERFINAL
Fri., July 10, 3 p.m.
Los Angeles

SEMIFINAL
Tues., July 14, 3 p.m.
Dallas

3RD-PLACE GAME
Sat., July 18, 5 p.m.
Miami

WORLD CUP FINAL
Sunday, July 19
3 p.m.
New York/New Jersey

SEMIFINAL
Wed., July 15, 3 p.m.
Atlanta

QUARTERFINAL
Sat., July 11, 5 p.m.
Miami

QUARTERFINAL
Sat., July 11, 9 p.m.
Kansas City

ROUND OF 16
BRA Sun., July 5
4 p.m.
NY/NJ **NOR**

ROUND OF 16
MEX Sun., July 5
8 p.m.
Mexico City **ENG/COD**

ROUND OF 16
ARG/CPV Tues., July 7
Noon
Atlanta **AUS/EGY**

ROUND OF 16
SUI/ALG Tues., July 7
4 p.m.
Vancouver **COL/GHA**

BRAZIL 2
Monday
Houston
JAPAN 1

IVORY COAST 1
Tuesday
Dallas
NORWAY 2

MEXICO 2
Tuesday
Mexico City
ECUADOR 0

ENGLAND
Wednesday, noon
Atlanta
DR CONGO

ARGENTINA
Friday, 6 p.m.
Miami
CAPE VERDE

AUSTRALIA
Friday, 2 p.m.
Dallas
EGYPT

SWITZERLAND
Thursday, 11 p.m.
FS1, Vancouver
ALGERIA

COLOMBIA
Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Kansas City
GHANA

Pulisic 'ready' to play a full 90 minutes … or more

By ETHAN SEARS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The state of Christian Pulisic's left calf has all but disappeared as a story headed into the U.S. national team's Round of 32 clash against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Injury aside, though, it's been more than three months since Pulisic played a full 90 minutes. He may be asked to play 120 on Wednesday, should the game reach extra time — something he hasn't done since a March 21, 2024, Nations League match against Jamaica.

"I feel ready," Pulisic said when asked whether he could make it that far.

Nevertheless, how Mauricio Pochettino chooses to manage his best player will be a key feature of this game. No one needs reminding that Pulisic, who played 32 minutes against Turkey in the group-stage finale, is a singular talent for the USMNT.

Even the tone of that glorified exhibition game changed almost immediately after Pulisic entered. He can attract attention and rip apart defenses. There's a buzz in the stadium when he's on the ball. But even the most fit players can keel over after extra time.

Given that Pochettino would, presumably, want Pulisic taking a penalty should the game make it that far, it's all the more important for him to make it through.

"I felt great in the last game against Turkey," Pulisic said. "Feeling good this week. Definitely ready to go tomorrow."

USMNT NOTES

➤ Bosnia coach **Sergej Barbarez** was asked about **Abigail Velez**, the ABC7 Los Angeles reporter who apologized to the country after saying she could not find the Balkan nation on a map.

"This is the consequence of today's culture," Barbarez said. "Social media and everything. Everything comes out. OK, I will put this aside. I'm not concerned with things like this, I have to admit. Things like that happen on a daily basis. We are a small country, things like that sometimes happen."

➤ Pulisic was asked his opinion on how **Zlatan Ibrahimovic**, a senior adviser at Milan, is doing as an analyst on Fox.

"I think he's hilarious," Pulisic said. "I feel like that's a pretty common opinion. Obviously, I've gotten to work with him a lot, too, so he's a really good guy. Listening to him and knowing his personality, I think he does extremely well."

➤ **Auston Trusty** (ankle) returned to full participation in training Tuesday and will be available Wednesday, Pochettino said. **Cristian Roldan** (quad strain) stayed in modified training, and while **Mark McKenzie** (irritated foot) is improving, he remained out of training. Pochettino didn't explicitly rule either of them out but said it would "be difficult" for them to be available.

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More World Cup / Page 50

JUST SO COOL

In biggest USMNT game perhaps ever, coach urges side to be calm in moment

By ETHAN SEARS

Wednesday
UNITED STATES vs. BOSNIA-HERZ.
Santa Clara, Calif.
Round of 32
8 p.m.
Fox

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Games like this, Mauricio Pochettino said, are 90 percent emotion. The world saw it Monday with all the Germans who wouldn't step up and take a penalty, while Moroccan keeper Yassine Bounou stayed in total command in the most stressful of situations.

Pochettino would like to reduce that 90 percent to 50 or 60 when his U.S. Men's National Team faces Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday. Realistically, that's an uphill battle. This match, which represents the USMNT's best shot to win a knockout game at a World Cup since 2002 and which will serve as a referendum on an entire generation of players, is not just another game.

The whole country saw what this team is capable of when it dismantled Paraguay and swept aside Australia in the group stage — what Bosnia coach Sergej Barbarez eloquently called "the way they use this euphoria around them." Put forth that sort of performance again, on home soil, and the nation's attention will truly be captured.

"I think the challenge is to keep our level," Pochettino said. "Keep our way to approach the games and showing that energy, the quality that we have. It's about [keeping] the energy and the capacity to really believe in what we are doing and performing this way."

The 54-year-old Argentine has said he wants every game to feel like the final of a World Cup. This game will feel existential, not only to the coach, but to all 68,827 in the building.

With the possible exception of the 1994 Round of 16, a 1-0 loss to Brazil, this is surely the biggest game the USMNT has ever played in its own country.

"I kind of know what's coming," said Malik Tillman, who's never played in a knockout game at a World Cup. "I know it's gonna be more intense. It's gonna be tougher than group stage games were, but you just have to be ready for it."

Pochettino's attempts to say otherwise aside, the Americans are surely the favorites in this match. Bosnia, though, is not to be overlooked. This, remember, is a team that stunned Italy in qualifying. And the USMNT hasn't beaten any UEFA team since December 2021, though that win was, coincidentally, against Bosnia.

"Bosnia is a very combative, aggressive, physical team, but also, they have good organization," Pochettino said. "Good coach, real good coach. When you see the games they play in the group stage or the qualification in March against Italy, you can see that they have quality."

Barbarez was right in saying of the USMNT, "Of course they are favorites." But that should imply to nobody that this will be easy.

"We already know this," said Christian Pulisic, expected to start after returning from injury to off the bench against Turkey. "It's a World Cup. You're never gonna get the so-called favorite winning every single time. This is soccer, this is the way things go. You can defend all game and win in the penalty kick shootout. That's the beauty of the game. You have to be ready for whatever will come [Wednesday]."

All true, all fair. And still, for all the conversations about how to grow the game in this country, how to market it, how to make MLS a better product, there is a pesky, inextricable fact at the heart of things: America will get behind a winner. Until that happens, there's not much making up for it.

Go down early, and this World Cup will go down as an opportunity squandered in more ways than one.

"I think we all understand it's much more than just a game," Chris Richards said. "It's a chance to progress the sport in this country, but ultimately, we understand it starts with getting results and good performances. They go hand in hand, but if we take care of business on the field, I think everybody around here will be watching off the field."

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MATCHUPS

By ETHAN SEARS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The group stage was a rousing success for the U.S. Men's National Team. And it won't matter, not one bit, if it doesn't follow that up with a win over Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday night in Santa Clara.

The Round of 32 match against the Balkan nation — which knocked out Italy to make it into the World Cup — is not, like knockout games past, a match the U.S. can lose and still claim to have had a successful tournament. That does not mean it will be an easy win.

The Post breaks down the matchup between Team USA and Bosnia:

WHEN THE U.S. HAS THE BALL

With no injuries among the presumed starters and no reason to rotate, the starting 11 figures to be the same as it was in the opener against Paraguay. As in that game and in the one against Australia, the U.S. should have most of the ball against an opponent that's happy to play without it.

Bosnia can sit back in a low block and absorb pressure effectively while looking for moments to attack on the counter. Against a 4-4-2 formation that sticks to fairly basic principles, the easiest way to try to break it down isn't much of a secret. Get width, create gaps in defense and take advantage. For that reason, **Sergiño Dest** on the right side and **Antonee "Jedi" Robinson** on the left will have huge roles to play. Having **Christian Pulisic**, hopefully able to play the full 90, will be key as well given his ability to make something happen on the ball, especially if the USMNT is having trouble solving the puzzles Bosnia throws at it.

Bosnia's centerbacks, **Nikola Katic** and **Stjepan Radeljic**, are 6-foot-4 and 6-foot-7, respectively, so aerial duels don't project as an area where the USMNT can come out on top. There will be moments when Bosnia presses high to try to force long balls that its center backs can win back, but for the most part, the USMNT has handled the press well in this tournament, and this is an opponent it should be able to build out from the back against.

WHEN BOSNIA HAS THE BALL

There's something appealing about the simplicity with which Bosnia plays. It's a 4-4-2 that, in possession, becomes a 4-2-4 with the fullbacks getting high and wide, wingers coming inside and strikers — **Edin Džeko** and **Ermedin Demirovic** — who can get on the end of crosses. **Ermin Mahmic**, who's come on as a substitute in Bosnia's past two games, has scored in both of them as well.

The main thing the U.S. will be worried about, though, is defensive transition if Bosnia can get on the counterattack. **Mauricio Pochettino**'s system calls for such an aggressive rest defense, with even **Tim Ream** and **Chris Richards** high up the pitch when the Americans have the ball.

Kerim Alajbegovic and **Esmir Bajraktarevic**, Bosnia's wingers, are two speedy, skilled players who can cause problems in those situations. The moments when they're running upfield with numbers could be the most dangerous of the match for the USMNT.

It's worth saying, though, that Bosnia generally isn't a high-scoring team. Before its 3-1 win over Qatar that secured passage to the knockout

Edin Dzeko

Getty Images

The money 'Miracle' behind Poch's hiring

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON: USMNT coach Mauricio Pochettino (right) knows the opportunity his team has, but he is asking Chris Richards (left), Christian Pulisic and the rest of his players to not be overwhelmed and to play within themselves. Getty Images (3)

rounds, it had been seven games since Bosnia scored more than one goal, last doing so against a 10-man Romania side in a Nov. 15 qualifier.

INTANGIBLES

You can't call it the biggest game in USMNT history, but it's certainly the Americans' best chance to win a knockout game at a World Cup since they last did so in 2002. As for Bosnia, it is without a doubt the biggest game in its history — the country has never qualified for a European championship and lost in the group stage in 2014, its only other time at a World Cup. Whatever gets said about not feeling nerves or pressure, both sides will have plenty of both.

Given home-field advantage and the ease with which the Americans have conducted themselves thus far in this tournament, it's hard not to feel they'll almost always have the edge in this category.

PREDICTION

USA 2, Bosnia 1

The Americans grit out a hard-fought win and avoid extra time.

Mark Cannizzaro

SAN FRANCISCO — There's no tangible way to measure this, of course.

But it's not outlandish to wonder if the U.S. Men's National Team would be playing in Wednesday's colossal World Cup Round of 32 match against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Santa Clara without the vision, want-to and financial aid of two men: Scott Goodwin and Ken Griffin.

The transformation of the USMNT to the way we see it now truly began June 27, 2024, when Goodwin — a former high school soccer player from Darien, Conn., who's become a highly successful businessman — watched the USMNT lose to Panama 2-1 in a Copa América match that was marred by an undisciplined red card on forward Tim Weah.

Goodwin was so incensed by it all — underpinned by the bigger-picture direction of the program and the leadership of then-U.S. head coach Gregg Berhalter — that he started a text chain that ended up changing the course of U.S. men's soccer.

He reached out to Kyle Martino, whom he'd played against in high school in Fairfield County; Alecko Eskandarian, who played at the University of Virginia with Martino and now works in Major League Soccer; and Sean Feeney, who'd worked for Goodwin and also played at UVa.

"When Tim Weah got the red card I said, 'This is a chance to get an amazing coach,' " Goodwin told The Post this week. "A couple of weeks later, I saw in the press they were talking to [decorated European manager Jürgen] Klopp, and I said, 'Wow, let's get it done.' Alecko, who works for MLS and understands the economics, said, 'We can't afford Klopp.'

"My response was, 'What if I pay?' He said, 'What are you talking about?' I said, 'No, no, I'll pay.' A couple of days later he texted me and said, 'Were you serious?' I said, 'Yeah, I'm serious. Let's go.' "

In the meantime, Goodwin was reading about available coaches and was immediately drawn to Mauricio Pochettino.

On July 10, 2024, Goodwin sent Martino, Eskandarian and Feeney a text message that read: "Pochettino is the perfect option."

That led to a breakfast meeting with JT Batson, the U.S. Soccer CEO, at a restaurant in Tribeca.

Batson, in that meeting, laid out his vision for U.S. soccer, citing the difference that Emma Hayes had already made since being hired as the U.S. women's national team head coach.

"Talking to JT about the long-term vision — unifying the youth system, bringing in a coach who can be a real leader, a culture carrier — I thought Mauricio, by everything I read about him, would be incredible," Goodwin said.

About a month after that meeting, Goodwin said he got a call from Batson saying, "We have an agreement with Mauricio. Will you support it?"

"I said, 'Yes, what do you need?' " Goodwin recalled. "They came back and said we need 'X,' the commercial side will pay some and then we need more. I thought I was just paying for the head coach, but it's also the assistant coach, the trainer, the analyst, everything.

"I needed to phone a friend, so I reached out to Ken Griffin, who I know a little from South Florida hedge fund circles. He'd been charitable in the soccer world."

Griffin had donated $8 million to the U.S. Soccer Foundation to fund the building of 100 mini pitches in Chicago and Miami-Dade County.

Pochettino was hired in September 2024. According to numerous reports, his salary is about $6 million per year, making him the highest-paid coach in U.S. soccer history.

The progress has not been a linear ride to success. There have been bumps along the way, with Pochettino's decisions, methods and tactics sometimes questioned, as have some results in the World Cup lead-up.

But, now that we're here — U.S. vs. Bosnia with a Round of 16 berth in the balance with a first U.S. knockout round victory since 2002 — we see there's been a method to Pochettino's madness.

Still, Pochettino's understanding of American sports culture — particularly with soccer — has taken some time to set in.

This is where Goodwin stepped in after seeing Pochettino's reaction to reporters' questions following a resounding 5-1 win over Uruguay in a November 2025 friendly, at which several of the top American players were missing for various reasons, including club obligations and injuries.

"After that game, I was flying back to Palm Beach watching the press conference on the plane and a reporter asked, 'This is a great result, but what about the regular players? What will you do when they're back?' " Goodwin recalled.

Pochettino was exasperated, thinking that this was the best U.S. performance in years against a highly ranked nation and the reporters were asking about players who weren't there.

"He had been struggling to understand U.S. sports culture — it's an entertainment culture, whereas [soccer] culture in the rest of the world is a religion," Goodwin said.

That's when Goodwin urged Pochettino to watch "Miracle," the movie about the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team, telling him, "It's going to show you something about a nation coming together behind a national team. The U.S. does have that culture, that capacity for buy-in, to be inspired by a national team."

Pochettino watched the movie on his flight back home to Europe and, according to Goodwin, "He stopped about 40 minutes in and recorded a quote where [U.S. assistant coach] Craig Patrick asks [head coach] Herb Brooks, 'Hey, Herb, this list doesn't have some of the best players on it.' And Herb says, 'We're not looking for the best players, Craig, we're looking for the right players.' "

Goodwin said Pochettino sent that clip to him and told him, "I'm crying."

"After that, he started to get more into American sports culture, and you could see the team really starting to build a culture," Goodwin said.

Anyone who's been around the USMNT in recent years knows it's been a more player-driven operation with the players running the show, not the head coach.

Pochettino has changed that culture, deftly commanding the respect of the roster with a disciplined hand while not alienating the players.

Goodwin recalled saying to Batson in their first meeting together, "I want whoever coaches this team to make the players believe in him enough that they want to sing the national anthem, that they want to feel it. You can see that they're feeling it now."

"The fact that Mauricio is there leading the team in singing along to 'Country Roads' at the end of the game," Goodwin said, "that makes me feel like my friend Mauricio is feeling very American."

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Hurt Holmes slowly works his way back to mound

By MIKE PUMA

TORONTO — Clay Holmes is progressing to a mound in his rehab, but still weeks away from rejoining the Mets.

The right-hander will throw a bullpen session this week, according to interim manager Andy Green, in his rehab from a broken right fibula.

"I would love to say he's ahead of schedule, but I don't want to get ahead of myself and make that declaration," Green said before the Mets beat the Blue Jays 3-0 on Tuesday at Rogers Centre. "But it's going well and we're encouraged by that."

METS NOTES

Holmes, who can opt out of his contract after this season, is among the pitchers the Mets could like to deal before the Aug. 3 trade deadline. Holmes was the Mets' most effective starter before his injury, pitching to a 2.39 ERA in eight starts.

➤ **Luis Robert Jr.** began a minor league rehab assignment with Triple-A Syracuse, where he joined rehabbing **Jorge Polanco**.

Green was asked what the Mets lineup could become with Robert and Polanco as options. Both players have been sidelined since April.

"In Robert's case it's a right-handed bat that we have missed pretty obviously against left-handed pitching," Green said. "It would be great to have Polanco — he really rounds out a lineup with an ability to hit from both sides, so the lineup gets lengthened.

"I think some of the at-bats we have had late in games, when you have those guys you have more options, even if they are on the bench on a given day you have got more choices that work really well and I think it's just a longer, more diverse lineup."

Though **A.J. Ewing** has taken grounders, Green downplayed the idea the rookie could shift to the infield following Robert's return.

"You are talking about somebody adjusting to the big leagues and being locked in out in center field right now, which is where he's been," Green said.

➤ The Mets signed outfielder **Christopher Morel** to a minor league contract, according to an industry source.

BORDER GUARD: Nolan McLean delivers in Tuesday's 3-0 win in Toronto. McLean had given up six earned runs in his last start but struck out seven and allowed just five hits in six shutout innings Tuesday.

Imagn Images

ROLLIN' McLEAN

Rookie bounces back from rough start to give Mets needed hope in Toronto

By MIKE PUMA

TORONTO — Nolan McLean's continued development is among the few compelling reasons to watch the Mets these days.

In what has been an inconsistent season for the rookie right-hander, nights like Tuesday offer a reminder of McLean's elite stuff and the promise of his name in Cy Young award conversations as his career progresses.

McLean limited walks and Toronto's solid contact on this night, carrying the Mets to a 3-0 victory at Rogers Centre.

In a second sharp performance in his last three, McLean fired six shutout innings, allowing five hits and two walks, and striking out seven. McLean's bullpen handled the rest, securing the Mets only their second victory in 11 games.

"I am just trying to get better every time I go out there and find new things that work or old things that I kind of went away from that I should stick by," McLean said. "It always goes back to landing offspeed [pitches]. That is just a big key for me. Anytime I can do that and keep guys off my fastball, that is really good."

Francisco Alvarez and Luis Torrens each homered to give the Mets offensive highlights on a night Kevin Gausman was nearly as tough as McLean, allowing only one run over six innings.

McLean, whose ERA dropped to 3.78, rebounded from a shaky outing against the Cubs last week in which he allowed two homers and six earned runs. This latest performance was his third in June with one earned run or less allowed and at least six innings pitched.

"It's been fun seeing him bounce back from a tougher stretch," interim manager Andy Green said, referring to McLean's bumpy May. "Last game a little was made about a couple of home runs that skewed the line, but he's just mixing his pitches incredibly well and he's got different ways to end at-bats. He was competitive all day. He was in the zone all day. That from start to finish was as clean and dominant as he's been all year."

The Mets (36-50) can get a series victory — something they have not accomplished since beating the Braves two of three games in mid-June — when Freddy Peralta gets the ball on Wednesday.

McLean escaped trouble in the fourth after surrendering a two-out double to Daulton Varsho and walking Luis Urías by retiring Yohendrick Piñango. Bo Bichette

METS	**3**
BLUE JAYS	**0**

Boxscore Page 51

ON DECK: at Blue Jays

Wednesday, 3:07 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Freddy Peralta

2026 stats:
5-6, 4.53 ERA

Career vs. TOR:
1-1, 2.25 ERA

Last start:
Thurs. vs. CHC
5.2 IP, 3 R, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

53%	23%	13%
4-Seamer	Changeup	Curveball

RHP Spencer Miles

2026 stats:
3-1, 3.00 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
First start

Last start:
May 31 at BAL
3.0 IP, 5 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

X%	X%	X%
Type	Type	Type

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: at Braves, 7:15 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ
RHP Christian Scott vs. RHP Bryce Elder

SATURDAY: at Braves, 8:08 p.m., Fox, WHSQ
RHP Kodai Senga vs. LHP Chris Sale

INJURY REPORT

■ **Clay Holmes** is expected to throw a bullpen session this week. The right-hander is rehabbing a fractured right fibula.

handled the tough short hop at third base and threw out Piñango.

Alvarez's homer leading off the fifth gave the Mets a 1-0 lead. It was the ninth homer of the season for Alvarez and his fourth in nine games. Alvarez jumped on a 1-2 four-seam fastball from Gausman and cleared the center field fence.

McLean allowed an infield single to George Springer in the fifth before getting the final two outs. In the sixth he walked Ernie Clement before striking out Varsho and retiring Urías to conclude the inning and his outing, at 91 pitches.

"I thought it was the best overall command of [the curveball] he's had in some time," Green said. "There weren't many, at all, bad misses with it and that is a pitch he can tug from time to time and get it in on the feet of left-handed batters or way away from righties where it's not tempting. He kept it near the plate almost the entire day, so it was really well done."

Torrens homered in the seventh to extend the Mets lead to 2-0. Torrens jumped on a 2-2 cutter from lefty Mason Fluharty and cleared the right field fence for his second homer this season. Torrens' other homer came on June 5 in San Diego.

Brett Baty's sacrifice fly in the ninth scored A.J. Ewing, who singled leading off and reached second on an errant pickoff throw, giving the Mets their final run.

Brooks Raley, Luke Weaver and Devin Williams combined to roll through the final three innings scoreless. Weaver extended his scoreless innings streak to 24 over his last 22 appearances.

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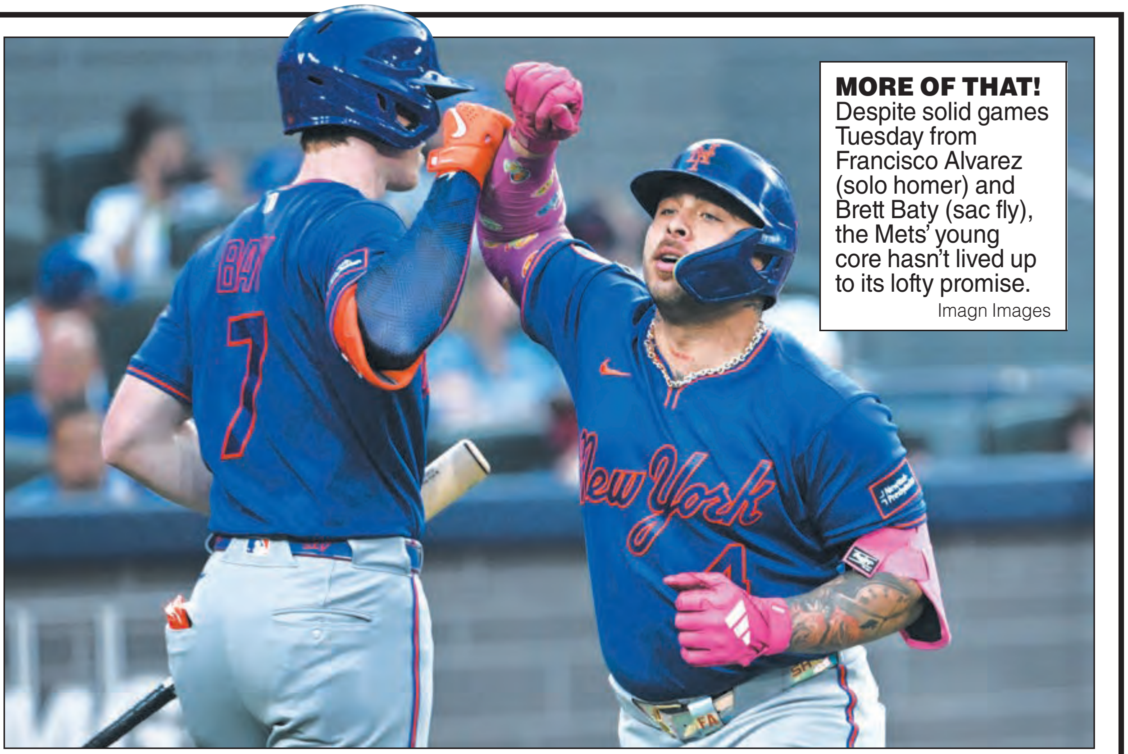

MORE OF THAT! Despite solid games Tuesday from Francisco Alvarez (solo homer) and Brett Baty (sac fly), the Mets' young core hasn't lived up to its lofty promise.

Imagn Images

Once-touted prospects not pulling weight

By MIKE PUMA

TORONTO — The day is likely approaching to dissolve a once celebrated Mets young core that hasn't ripened as the organization might have hoped.

Francisco Alvarez, Mark Vientos and Brett Baty have all shown flashes of excellence over the past few seasons, including Tuesday night, when Alvarez got the scoring started with a solo homer and Baty finished it with a sac fly in the ninth inning of a 3-0 win over the Blue Jays. But collectively, the group's lack of production is a significant factor in the team's dismal play over the last calendar year.

The Mets have received a jolt from the new wave of organizational talent — Carson Benge and A.J. Ewing have arrived to bring athleticism and high-ceiling offense to the equation — but the older wave hasn't fulfilled potential.

For a team that is 36-50 and almost destined to become sellers before the Aug. 3 trade deadline, the question looms regarding how much, if any, of this group will remain with the club.

The 24-year-old Alvarez is the highest-regarded player of the group, as a catcher with power. He took a .250/.314/.426 slash line into Tuesday night's game before going 1-for-4 with the solo homer and two more strikeouts, but his inability to stay healthy and questions about his defense and whether he can remain at the position long term are detriments.

"Of the three the one with the best chance is Alvarez — if he can stay healthy, which has been a challenge," said a talent evaluator from a National League team. "The lack of depth [at catcher] in the industry keeps him in play. He's a right-handed bat with power."

Alvarez, since his return from the injured list in recent weeks, has seen occasional action at DH — including Tuesday — to keep his bat in the lineup and allow the defensively superior Luis Torrens, who also homered Tuesday, opportunities to play.

Alvarez's metrics behind the plate include a minus-4 in blocks above average, which ranks only in MLB's ninth percentile, according to Statcast. Alvarez is also just 4-for-23 throwing out runners attempting to steal against him this season, for an underwhelming 17.4 percent success rate.

Vientos' playing time has curtailed, with struggles offensively and at first base. He could be squeezed out completely if Jorge Polanco or Luis Robert Jr., both of whom have begun minor league rehab assignments with Triple-A Syracuse, return anytime soon.

Simply, the Vientos who helped carry the lineup in 2024 when the Mets advanced deep into the postseason hasn't reemerged over the ensuing two seasons. The 26-year-old sat out Tuesday with a .209/.249/.378 slash line with 10 homers in 230 at-bats.

"I definitely know what I am capable of and that's having a couple of good months and turning everything around," Vientos said. "Right now, I am in the process of figuring it out."

Defensively, Vientos' minus-7 outs above average ranks in MLB's second percentile.

"He's been a circus at first base," the talent evaluator said.

Baty, 26, has shifted largely to second base following Marcus Semien's IL stint. Baty began the season playing right field and first base, but returned to his old position, third base, when Francisco Lindor hit the IL for two months.

"Baty, who the heck knows what position he is going to end up being?" the talent evaluator said.

Baty has embraced the super-utility role, but his offense has regressed following a solid second half last season. He has a .210/.294/.294 slash line with three homers and 27 RBIs after going 1-for-3 Tuesday.

"I think it's more about approach, because I felt that my swing is in a really good spot," Baty said. "I have been controlling the strike zone all year as far as not chasing as much. I have just got to get those pitches in the zone and contact them better. That is more along the lines of approach stuff, rather than physical, mechanical stuff."

Baty said playing multiple positions hasn't been to his detriment.

"I want to be that guy that can help the team out wherever," he said. "I really don't view it as a problem."

DEEP-SIXED

Tigers homer barrage too much for quiet Bombers bats as skid grows

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Yankees cannot afford for a Spencer Jones home run robbery to be foiled.

They cannot afford for Cam Schlittler to struggle to any degree, much less this degree.

Given their sudden offensive ineptitude and that Tarik Skubal was the opposing starter, the Yankees defense and pitching needed to flirt with perfection to give them a chance. The flirtation was over within minutes.

A rough first inning put the Yankees in a four-run hole, which felt more like a four-run canyon, in what would become a 9-3 smacking by the Tigers in front of 37,211 frustrated, booing fans in The Bronx on Tuesday.

"We're not scoring. That's the name of the game," said manager Aaron Boone, whose Yankees (48-37) have dropped a season-high six straight games, are doing nothing right, hitting particularly wrong and hearing from the crowd after each mistake.

Never in the Yankees' century-plus of baseball had they been held to three or fewer hits in four straight games before their four games from Friday through Monday.

TIGERS 9
YANKEES 3

Boxscore Page 51

They managed to snap that streak Tuesday — only because of a couple of garbage-time knocks in the ninth doubled their output to four hits.

They finished with one hit in six innings against Skubal, who upstaged Schlittler (four innings, six runs on four homers) in a matchup that was far more appealing on paper than on the field.

"It's difficult, but all we can do is show up tomorrow and get to work," said Anthony Volpe, 2-for-21 (.095) in his past seven games. "Everyone's pissed."

Ben Rice cranked a home run in the bottom of the first, but the next 13 Yankees were retired by Skubal, who sure looked like the prize of the trade deadline.

But then again, Detroit's Casey Mize (seven scoreless, one-hit innings) looked like a Cy Young candidate Monday. Just like Boston's Sonny Gray (7 1/3 scoreless, one-hit innings) looked like a superstar Sunday. Just like Boston's Jake Bennett (6 1/3 one-run, three-hit innings) looked like a revelation Saturday. Just like Boston's Payton Tolle (seven scoreless, one-hit innings) looked like the AL Rookie of the Year on Friday.

A team that does not have Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, Trent Grisham and Ryan McMahon has fallen into a funk whose depth, at least when measured in hits, had never been seen before in franchise history.

"Right now it's kind of like the whole team is kind of going through something all at once," said Rice, whose homer halted a five-game hitless skid.

Paul Goldschmidt is 0-for-16 in his past five games. Cody Bellinger took a seat against Skubal amid a 2-for-27 (.074) stretch. José Caballero, who also botched a potential double-play ball that immediately preceded a three-run homer in the sixth, is 1-for-17 (.059) in his past five games.

No one has stepped up at any part of the lineup for a team that has scored just 15 runs in six games and has not scored more than four in a contest since June 19.

"We got some guys missing that are key, but the people we got are very capable," said Boone, whose Yankees are ending June swooning. "And we need to start getting some of our offensive mojo back."

The final 8 ½ innings felt inconsequential after the top of the first, this version of the Yankees seemingly incapable of mounting threats.

The third batter of the game, Kerry Carpenter, launched a two-out drive to deep center. Jones had a bead on it, reached the wall, jumped and used his 6-foot-7 stature to bring his glove high above the wall's height.

The ball landed in the glove, and Yankee Stadium cheered — before realizing that as Jones hit the wall, the ball had bounced out of his glove and into the home bullpen for a home run.

Jones appeared in disbelief that he did not make the catch.

What happened next was probably more unbelievable: 27 additional pitches from Schlittler in the frame, including homers to Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson.

"[We are] just not playing good ball right now," said Schlittler, whose ERA rose from 1.62 to 2.08. "It's my job to come in here and try to stop that bleeding, and I couldn't get that done."

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More Yanks / P. 56-57

Schlitter's start puts Yanks in hole they

By JAKE NISSE

Cam Schlittler's night started off badly, and it quickly got even worse.

The Yankees ace coughed up three home runs in a nightmare first inning, and another in the third, as he was ultimately charged with six earned runs and put his team in a hole against Detroit's reigning Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal.

The hole he dug was too deep for a team with a struggling offense, resulting in a 9-3 loss.

"It's my job to come in here and try and stop that bleeding, and I couldn't get that done," Schlittler said as the Yankees slumped to a sixth consecutive defeat and nearly had a franchise record fifth straight game with three or fewer hits before a pair of ninth-inning singles spared them that infamy. "So [to] put the team down four [runs] in the first — it's not encouraging, especially against a guy like that [Skubal]."

Schlittler retired the first two batters he faced but saw an attempted home run robbery by Spencer Jones on Kerry Carpenter bounce off the outfielder's glove and over the center field wall.

From there, Schlittler unraveled, even if manager Aaron Boone later insisted there was no mental letdown from the slightly unlucky start.

Homers by Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson followed despite Schlittler getting them both to two strikes, and the normally steady arm looked deflated after finally getting out of the inning.

He was taken deep again by Greene in the third inning and was finally removed from the firing line in the fifth after a double off the center field wall by Dillon Dingler.

"If he's not good with his location, he doesn't usually necessarily pay like that," Boone said, as he also credited Torkelson for battling during a long at-bat prior to his bomb. "Confident that with Cam, he'll grow from this, and this will be something that kind of fuels him and allows him to see where he can make adjustments, too, moving forward."

The 25-year-old has admittedly fared slightly worse against lefties this

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

OH NO! Cam Schlittler looks on from the turf after giving up one of three first-inning homers to the Tigers in a 9-3 loss Tuesday in The Bronx. Bill Kostroun

can't escape

season (which Carpenter and Greene both are), but this blowup was plain uncharacteristic for Schlittler, who has generally been dominant dating back to his days in college and in the minors.

That success has translated to the majors, where he still has a 2.08 ERA this year even after Tuesday's blip.

Schlittler was unsurprisingly critical of his performance but found a positive spin — he established his curveball in his second time through the Tigers' order.

"It's taken a while to experience an outing like that," he said. "So I just got to take what I can from it and get ready for next week."

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INJURY REPORT

- **Aaron Judge**'s fractured rib is not ready to be reimaged yet, Aaron Boone said. The manager said Judge is feeling better but likely weeks away from checking on the healing of the rib.
- **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** felt better after crashing into Jasson Domínguez on Monday, but he only would have been used off the bench Tuesday in an emergency, Boone said.

ON DECK

vs. Tigers

Wednesday, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Will Warren

2026 stats:
7-3, 3.75 ERA

Career vs. DET:
0-0, 3.00 ERA

Last start:
Fri., at BOS;
5.2 IP, 7 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

40%	28%	21%
4-seamer	Sinker	Sweeper

RHP Troy Melton

2026 stats:
4-1, 2.39 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-0, 4.50 ERA

Last start:
Thu., vs. HOU;
6 IP, 1 ER, 6 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

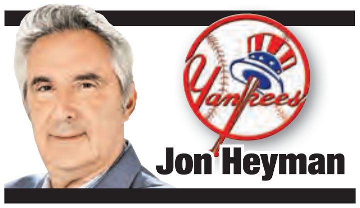
40%	21%	18%
4-seamer	Slider	Cutter

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: vs. Twins, 7:05 p.m, YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: vs. Twins, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

Detroit needs to trade ace Skubal



Jon Heyman

A LOT of folks understandably are guessing the Mets as Tigers superstar pitcher Tarik Skubal's ultimate free agent destination this winter, and there are two very good reasons for that.

1) The Mets are easily baseball's richest team (at least by owner net worth).

2) Nobody should be as desperate as they following back-to-back big-market disasters*. (*This disaster isn't quite complete, but we have a pretty good idea where they're headed.)

The more immediate question, though, is where Skubal, who shut down the listless Yankees on one hit over six dominant innings Tuesday night at the Stadium, will be headed in a trade. That could be any contender, but one person familiar with the suddenly reeling Yankees' thinking suggested it probably won't be them even though they look like they need help today. (More on that later.)

The Tigers aren't talking, at least not publicly. Their too-quick GM scooted past me at Yankee Stadium before and after ignoring my texts. But he has to know they should trade Skubal even if they get back in the race.

That isn't because the Tigers are a terrible team — only their luck is terrible. No, it's because they'll get a haul for arguably baseball's best pitcher (and inarguably the best about to hit the trade market). Whether or not they work their way back into the most pathetic American League race in eons, it would be malpractice not to execute a trade that could remake their future.

Their chances to keep Skubal long term are close to zero, so holding him for two months and accepting a draft choice at year's end would be tantamount to malpractice. They offered $75 million for four years two Octobers ago, as The Post reported. And that isn't even ballpark.

One rival executive says it would be "asinine" if they held the deadline's most coveted commodity.

That should be obvious to all.

After shutting down the Yankees 9-3, Skubal insisted the Tigers are a lot better than their 37-49 record. But he's no dummy. He understands a potential trade is a "reality."

"My job is to go out there and compete and win baseball games for the Detroit Tigers. And I'm going to do that until I'm told I'm on another team," Skubal said.

Skubal looked terrific in his fourth start back after his elbow nanoscope. He struck out nine and walked none to make it 30 strikeouts against just two walks since returning. And he hit 99.6 mph. So he appears on his way back to greatness.

"He was awesome," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said.

Skubal easily outpitched Yankees ace Cam Schlittler in a great matchup that never materialized. Facing a skeletal Yankees lineup (no Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, Cody Bellinger or Jazz Chisholm Jr.), Skubal gave up one hit over six efficient innings, a bomb of a home run by Ben Rice — Skubal's seventh allowed in his four games back — besting Schlittler, the Cy Young leader who was smoked for three first-inning homers and four overall as the reeling Yankees continue to melt.

Enough Bronx boos were heard to make it sound like Citi Field.

A Skubal trade works whether the Tigers are playing for this year or next. The Tigers sold in 2024, yet still worked themselves into a playoff spot. And, as Hinch reminded me, the Guardians sold last year and wound up edging the Tigers to win a wild AL Central.

Anything can happen in that crazy division. And the Tigers aren't half bad. They somehow hold a plus-eight run differential. They are where they are because 15 of 26 on their original roster have hit the IL.

In other words, don't discount a comeback. Either way, Skubal needs to go. The real question is where.

The stacked Dodgers, for now at least, are believed "not in." And baseball breathes a hopeful Cy of relief over that.

The small-market Brewers made this sort of splash once, and CC Sabathia brought credibility. But they already possess a formidable top three with Jacob Misiorowski, Kyle Harrison and Brandon Woodruff.

The Yankees have a world-class rotation (though you wouldn't know it lately). And a couple of sweet simulated innings Tuesday from ace Max Fried are a plus. Ryan McMahon, who faced Fried, said his stuff was "gross" in what we assume was a compliment.

They'll check in. But one Yankees-connected person summed up their chances for a Skubal trade this way: "No chance. None."

The Cubs, with 13 pitchers out, are logical. The Phillies are surely concerned about their rotation depth. The Padres have new ownership and like to go for it. The Rays also have a new owner and are said to be looking at it. The Tigers are believed to like Boston's young pitchers, but presumably so do the Red Sox. The Braves have rotation issues since winter, and the belief is the Tigers would prefer to send him to the National League.

There's no clear favorite yet. But whoever gets this pitching whiz may become a favorite.

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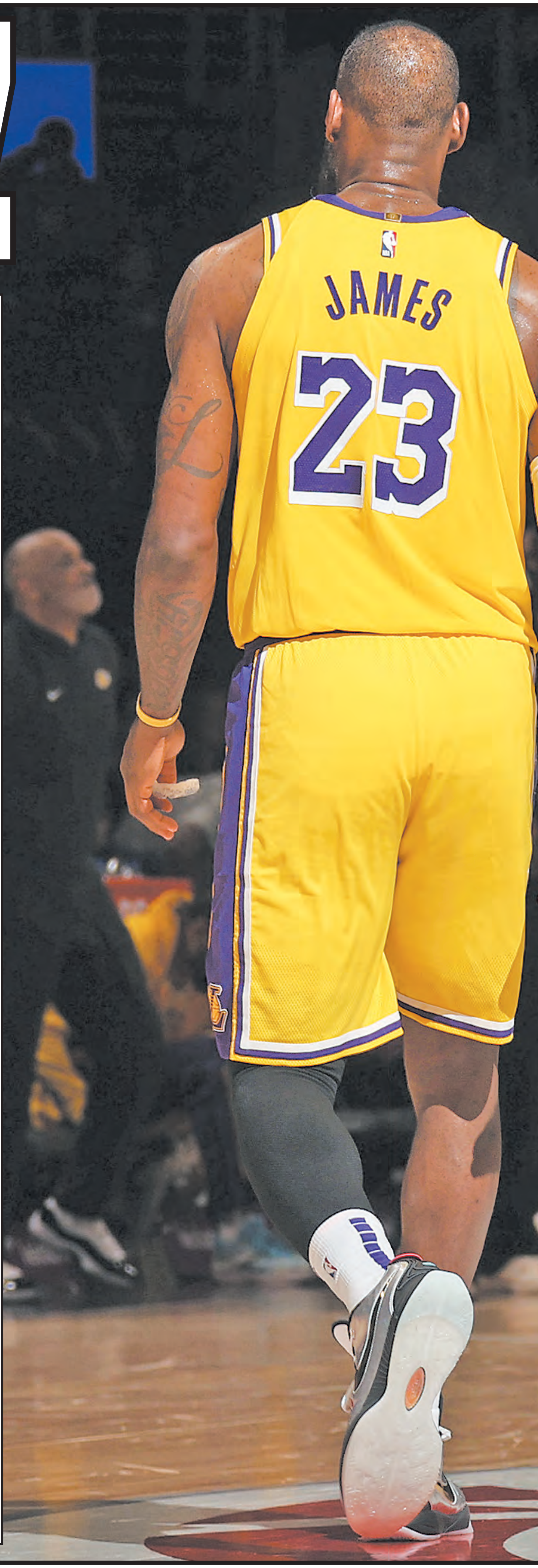
Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

LeGONE!

King James tells Lakers he will take his talents elsewhere next season

By KHOBI PRICE



LeBron James' time in Tinseltown has come to an end.

In a move that has shocked the NBA world, James has informed the Lakers that he will finish out his NBA career elsewhere and that the Lakers are free to move on without him, according to his agent, Klutch Sports CEO Rich Paul.

James' decision as an unrestricted free agent ends his longest consecutive tenure with a franchise, with his eight straight seasons with the Lakers outlasting the first seven seasons of his NBA career he spent with the Cavaliers.

Rumors are swirling that James could join the Warriors in San Francisco. The belief that James could become the King in the North came as Draymond Green declined his $27.7 million player option with the Warriors to become a free agent.

If Green re-signs with the Warriors for less money, they'd have the financial flexibility to offer James the $15.1 million non-taxpayer midlevel exception.

James had a Hall of Fame-worthy run with the Lakers: eight-time All-Star, seven-time All-NBA honoree, NBA champion and NBA Finals MVP in 2020, and NBA Cup champion in 2023.

He also surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's all-time regular-season scoring record (38,387) on Feb. 7, 2023, now sitting at 43,440 regular-season points scored after an unprecedented 23rd NBA season.

James ended his second tenure with the Cavaliers and signed a four-year, $154 million deal with the Lakers during the 2018 offseason.

The first season didn't go as hoped, with James suffering a groin injury Dec. 25, 2018, that sidelined him for 17 straight games, marking the first major injury of his career, with the Lakers missing the playoffs in the 2018-19 season.

After an offseason retooling, which included trading for star big man Anthony Davis and replacing Luke Walton with Frank Vogel as head coach, James and the Lakers bounced back in 2019-20, winning the 2020 NBA title.

The relationship between James and the Lakers has had its rifts throughout the decade. But at each pivotal turn, the two sides came back to each other.

But not this time.

The Lakers wanted to bring James back, but it wasn't their No. 1 priority as they looked to build the ideal roster around superstar Luka Doncic, who supplanted James as the face of the franchise after he was traded to Los Angeles in February 2025.

And James, after helping restore the Lakers to relevancy, will close out his career elsewhere.

"LeBron James is one of the greatest athletes in history," Lakers owner Jeanie Buss said in an X post.

"We will always be thankful for his eight years with the Lakers — including the title he led us to in 2020 under the toughest imaginable circumstances and the countless records he broke in purple and gold."

"We wish him all the best in the future, both on the court and off," Buss added. "He will always be a cherished part of the Lakers family."

James responded to the post, keeping it short and sweet.

"No, THANK YOU!" he wrote.

"Truly a honor to wear the [purple and gold] while trying to continuing the greatness & legacies that came before me! Hope I made a few proud during my stint."

Doncic paid homage to the star on Instagram, sharing a photo of him and James hugging with the caption, "An honor to play with and learn from you @kingjames."

Meanwhile, fans of the Lakers and LeBron also reacted to the news online — splitting into two camps.

"Honestly, this was best for both sides," one user posted on X. "I know there will be fans saying how his production will be missed this season and etc., but in life there is always a time and place for everything."

One camp of Lakers fans is rejoicing, hailing the decision by the oldest player in the NBA to take his talents elsewhere in a move described as "absolute cinema."

"Thank the basketball gods. Best news ever for us Lakers fans!" a fan said.

The other camp was clearly hurt by the news.

"Ummm im going back to sleep! its not even the first and our season is already OVER," one wrote on X.

"Whatever jersey LeBron wears next, the entire basketball world will be watching," another fan said on X.

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James and the giant impact

LeBron James announced Tuesday he would be leaving the Lakers after eight seasons and seeking a new team in free agency. Here are just a few of the things he accomplished in LA:

Getty Images

Lakers stat line

GAMES	PPG	RPG	APG	FG
479	25.9	7.7	7.9	51.3

Lakers all-time ranks	**10th** in field goals (4,681); **second** in 3-pointers (1,020); **fifth** in assists (3,808); **seventh** in defensive rebounds (3,224), **fourth** in points per game (25.9)
Lakers achievements	2020 NBA champion; 2020 Finals MVP; 2023 NBA Cup champion; 2023 NBA Cup MVP; 8x All-Star; 2020 All-NBA first team; 2021 and 2025 All-NBA second team

TA-TA, LA LA LAND: LeBron James is not ready to call it a career at age 41, but after eight seasons with the Lakers, he has told the team he intends to sign elsewhere as a free agent.

Getty Images (2)

Divorce was inevitable as LeBron lost the joy

Melissa Rohlin

THIS needed to happen.

LeBron James is returning for his unprecedented 24th NBA season, but not with the Lakers, with whom he spent the past eight seasons of his career, carrying them to a championship in 2020.

This may seem surprising.

But behind the scenes, tensions had been building.

James wears his emotions on his sleeve. He often describes himself as a big kid who loves joking. It was clear he wasn't happy.

The well was poisoned when the Lakers made the biggest trade in NBA history without consulting him, acquiring Luka Doncic in exchange for Anthony Davis in February 2025.

The issue wasn't that the Lakers dealt Davis, James' good friend whom he had played alongside for 5 ½ seasons. The issue was that his team was turned upside down without his knowledge.

Without his consent.

Until then, James had his fingerprints on everything. He was the sun. Teams deferred to his will. Now a major decision had been made without him, signaling a drastic shift in the organization's priorities.

James was a good soldier. Doncic was too. Even though they were blindsided, they viewed playing together as an opportunity.

Doncic told The Post in January that he had been studying how James takes care of his body and prepares for games. James told The Post, "I just love the kid," adding, "I'm happy to be a small part of his journey. Hopefully, he can take something from me."

But throughout the season, it was obvious James and the Lakers were heading in different directions. There were simmering undercurrents of strain and unease.

Sometimes the signs were small.

When James missed the first 14 games of the season because of sciatica, he wasn't as animated as usual when he cheered on the Lakers from the bench.

And while James and Davis used to chat in the locker room after games about everything ranging from football to their favorite wines, James and Doncic never quite developed that ease of rapport.

Other times, the signs were obvious.

There are very few moments in James' career when he was as uncomfortable as when he stood by his locker in January and answered questions about his relationship with Lakers governor Jeanie Buss.

He was put in that position after a bombshell ESPN story came out alleging that Buss "privately mused" about trading him in 2022 and "begrudgingly" offered him a contract extension in 2024.

How did James view his relationship with Buss?

"I thought it was good," he said. "But somebody could see it another way. So, it's always two sides of the coin."

Though James claimed he didn't pay attention to reports and publicly brushed off that moment as unimportant, you could tell it was monumental.

Why did he need this drama?

Especially after he ended the Lakers' six-year playoff drought. After he carried them to their first championship in 10 years. After he spent the longest consecutive stretch of his career with the franchise.

Things only got more awkward for James as the season progressed.

After the Lakers went on a three-game winning streak in early March while James was sidelined because of left foot arthritis and a right hip contusion, the narrative on national sports shows became that the Lakers were better without him.

When James returned, he was asked to become the team's third offensive option behind Doncic and Austin Reaves.

James embraced the role. He thrived in it. It led to the Lakers going on a 16-2 run and being considered championship contenders before Doncic and Reaves suffered injuries in April.

But whenever James was asked about being the team's third option, it was clear a player who's arguably the greatest of all time felt bottled up. He felt underappreciated. He felt disrespected.

"It is a sacrifice," James said in March. "I know what I'm capable of still doing as an individual. But what's important for this team, I'm able to adapt to."

The problem was clear.

James was still too good. The 41-year-old could've been the first option for many teams.

That point was only reinforced after Doncic and Reaves were sidelined as the Lakers opened their first-round playoff series against the Rockets. All of a sudden, James was called upon to transform into a superstar. No one thought the Lakers had a chance. He carried them to a 3-0 series lead and a second-round matchup against the Thunder.

After the Lakers were swept out of that series without Doncic, James was noncommittal about his future.

The relationship between James and the Lakers had run its course. The end wasn't sour. It wasn't bitter. It wasn't hateful.

James simply wasn't his joyful self anymore with the Lakers. At the end of his career, they weren't celebrating him in the same way they put Kobe Bryant on a pedestal after he spent his entire career in LA. The franchise had moved on. They needed to with the 27-year-old Doncic foaming at the mouth for his first title.

The writing was on the wall.

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LAKERS
23

Kawhi returning to Raps

By RYAN KOSTECKA

Kawhi Leonard is leaving Hollywood.

In a stunning move, the Clippers have agreed to trade Leonard back to the Raptors for Brandon Ingram, Gradey Dick, two first-round picks, one pick swap and two second-rounders, according to ESPN's Shams Charania.

The trade signals the end of one of the most dramatic NBA storylines of the 2020s.

Leonard led the Raptors to their first NBA title in 2019, in which he capped off a legendary playoff run by defeating Steph Curry and the Warriors in six games — albeit without Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson in the end due to injuries — to take home Finals MVP honors.

He then left Toronto in free agency that summer and returned to his SoCal roots, where he signed a max contract with the Clippers. Los Angeles had also just traded for Paul George a few weeks earlier, signaling a new era for the Clippers where they looked like one of the best teams in the NBA.

However, that never fully transpired.

Injuries to Leonard and George throughout their time together proved too much to overcome as the Clippers never reached the NBA Finals once. The closest they came was in 2021, when they fell to the Suns in the Western Conference finals.

The Clippers are coming off a string of first-round playoff exits from 2023-25 before falling in the play-in to the Warriors this past season. The move signals a shift from the front office that changes are needed despite what was said at the beginning of the offseason.

"Our plan is to win with Kawhi," Clippers president of basketball operations Lawrence Frank said after the loss to the Warriors. "We obviously showed as an organization that we want to continue and we are driven to win. So at the appropriate time, we'll sit down with Kawhi, and very similar to 2024, lay out our plan. And if our goals are aligned, then we'd like to win with Kawhi."

One of the league's most enigmatic stars, Leonard is coming off a career year with Los Angeles.

He averaged a career-high 27.9 points while playing in 65 games, just the second time since the 2016-17 season in which he played 65 games or more.

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NEW YORK GRITTY

Shamet goes from clinging to spot to hero to making bank

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Flash back to November.

Landry Shamet was coming off a rocky first year with the Knicks, when a dislocated shoulder derailed much of his season and he was largely buried in Tom Thibodeau's rotation. This was just 12 games into what would eventually become a championship Knicks season, when Shamet drilled six 3-pointers and erupted for a career-high 36 points in a Knicks win over the Heat.

This was the first sign that he would soon become a key bench piece on a title team.

"This is where I wanted to be," Shamet told The Post at the time. "With the year we had last year, this group of guys, this locker room, this city, these fans, all of it, I only wanted to be here, to be honest. I'm glad it worked out."

As free agency officially began Tuesday — with teams officially able to negotiate with other free agents at 6 p.m. (they were able to negotiate with their own free agents immediately after the Finals), the futures of Mitchell Robinson and Jordan Clarkson were not yet defined. The Knicks had already moved to bring back Shamet, Jose Alvarado and Mohamed Diawara, solidifying a few of their most important bench contributors from their championship run.

Entering free agency, Shamet and Robinson were the two biggest question marks surrounding the Knicks. Owner James Dolan's on-the-record desire to stay under the second apron meant it would be nearly impossible to bring back both and fulfill his wishes.

Shamet was likely to be the cheaper option, and the Knicks quickly secured his future with what they intend to be a four-year, $24 million deal.

Now, going back to Nov. 12. Across the next seven-plus months, Shamet's entire career trajectory would change.

Before that breakout against the Heat, he was barely hanging on in the league. He signed a nonguaranteed, veteran minimum deal to return for a second year with the Knicks. It wasn't even guaranteed he would make the roster out of training camp — Malcolm Brogdon's unexpected retirement paved the way for his spot.

And just three games later, Shamet dislocated his shoulder, the same one on his right, shooting side, as the year prior in a game against the Magic. He had a decision: Undergo surgery, which would have ended his season, or try to rehab it and return later in the year. The latter option required trust in the Knicks, who could have simply cut him and his nonguaranteed contract and signed someone who could come in and play right away.

Shamet and the Knicks agreed that he'd rehab it with the goal of returning later in the year, a prescient sign of faith between the two sides.

It wasn't until Jan. 15 that he returned. But across the next 36 games, he averaged 9.3 points on 38.1 percent shooting from 3-point range, cementing himself as an important part of the rotation.

But his shooting waned down the stretch of the postseason, and he went just 2-for-8 across the first five games of the first round of the playoffs. He had effectively been replaced in coach Mike Brown's rotation by Jose Alvarado. All of a sudden, Shamet was on the outside looking in.

No problem. He didn't complain or waver. He just waited for another opportunity.

Across the final 14 postseason games, he shot 50.9 percent from deep. His game-tying trey down the stretch of the epic comeback in Game 1 of the conference finals will live in Knicks lore.

And, now, he returns to the team he won his first championship with. He wanted to return to the Knicks even after a rough first season. He maintained that belief during an injury that threw his future in doubt.

Even now, he probably could have gotten more money elsewhere.

But the Knicks — and their faith in him — rejuvenated his career. He played a pivotal role in their title.

"Knicks fans are a specific species of human that should be studied," Shamet said. "They're crazy. They're crazy. ... Everywhere you walk in the city, that's what you hear. The buzz is unbelievable. You could try and explain what's going on in New York right now for Knicks fans but good luck. It's different. Knicks fans are different."

This relationship itself is different. And this marriage is set to continue.

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BACK FOR MORE: Landry Shamet played a pivotal role in helping the Knicks win their first title in 53 years (even after falling out of the rotation) and cashed in Monday with a four-year, $24 million pact to stay in New York. Getty Images

Nets add veteran Ellis on two-year, $18M deal

By BRIAN LEWIS

MITCHELL ROBINSON

With green guards and precious little defense, the Nets needed to add a veteran in the backcourt and pressure at the point of attack.

They're hoping Keon Ellis can bring both — and on a team-friendly deal.

The Nets and Ellis agreed to a two-year, $18 million contract Tuesday on the first night of free agency. It was first reported by ESPN and confirmed by The Post.

The deal includes a full mutual option. It fully guarantees Ellis his $18 million, while still letting both sides negotiate a new deal next summer. Either can opt in.

The Nets would still have nearly $35 million in salary cap space left, per Third Apron cap guru Yossi Gozlan, if they take Ellis and Josh Minott into cap space and Day'Ron Sharpe into the room mid-level exception.

The Nets spent first-round picks on guards Egor Demin, Nolan Traore and Ben Saraf last season, and Mikel Brown Jr. last week. None are expected to be defensive stalwarts, while wing Drake Powell has yet to grow into that role.

Point-of-attack defenders who can actually shoot — prototypical 3-and-D types — are pricey in the NBA, but Ellis may provide some of that archetype.

The 26-year-old Ellis played for Cleveland after being traded mid-season from Sacramento. Nets head coach Jordi Fernández was a Kings assistant for two years while Ellis was there, and now they'll have a reunion in Brooklyn.

Ellis went undrafted and has never earned more than the veteran's minimum. But he's a career 40.7 percent shooter from 3-point range and hit 35.5 percent last season for the Cavaliers en route to averaging 8.3 points.

But after averaging 24 minutes in the regular season and notching a plus-4.5 net rating, he struggled in the postseason. He averaged just seven minutes and recorded a minus-15.9 Net Rating in 12 appearances.

Still, playoff struggles are a luxury for the rebuilding Nets, a long way from those sorts of worries. Considering how defensively challenged they are it's easy to see Ellis earning a significant rotation role.

Ellis was fifth in the NBA in steals per 100 possessions in 2024-25 and 15th this past season, when he ranked in the 93rd percentile in steals.

The Nets still have plenty of cap space and even more needs.

They're unlikely to trade for Boston's Jaylen Brown, league sources said.

Despite the Nets being linked with the Celtics All-Star, The Post reported Monday that they weren't likely to deal for him, a league source saying, "I wouldn't put much stock in it." The Stein Line confirmed the same Tuesday. But trading away Nic Claxton has left a hole at center and made Day'Ron Sharpe the nominal starter.

Although the Nets have been linked with Jalen Duren and Walker Kessler, both are restricted free agents and seem rich for the Nets' blood.

So where could Brooklyn look? Across the East River, with The Post reporting the Knicks are unlikely to keep Mitchell Robinson and the Nets have interest.

Robinson leads the NBA in offensive rebounds per 36 minutes and per 100 possessions; Sharpe is fifth in both. The Nets re-signed Sharpe to a two-year, $20 million deal, a team-friendly contract that looks even cheaper weighed against Jock Landale's one-year, $14 million pact. But prying Robinson away from the Knicks would give the Nets the best rebounding 1-2 punch they've ever had.

Robinson is widely expected to command an annual salary starting at $15 million and possibly as high as $20 million.

Two other options are more offensively oriented, in Orlando's Moritz Wagner and Toronto's Sandro Mamukelashvili. But the Lakers are not only meeting with Duren but reportedly comfortable offering Mamukelashvili $10 million annually, per SNY. The latter won't protect the rim, but he'll pass the ball and space the floor, shooting 38.9 percent from deep this past season.

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RISING INTEREST: On the first night of free agency, the Nets signed 26-year-old guard Keon Ellis to a two-year, $18 million pact.

Getty Images

Claxton exit could mean bigger role for Wolf

By BRIAN LEWIS

Could Nic Claxton's absence be Danny Wolf's opportunity?

With the Nets trading away their starting center, Wolf will have a clearer pathway to playing more minutes at the five this upcoming season.

"Obviously, it sucks to see Clax go," Wolf said Tuesday as the Nets started practice for Summer League. "He was one of the leaders of our locker room, a great voice in our locker room, and he epitomized what it meant to be a Brooklyn Net. We're sad, we're gonna miss him.

"In terms of my role and how that'll change, I'll develop some coaches, do what they ask of me, and just keep getting better. Whatever role I'm thrown into, I can do it to the best of my abilities."

The Nets swapped Claxton and a second-round pick for power forward Julius Randle and a first-round selection that became Joshua Jefferson. Though Randle, Jefferson and holdover Noah Clowney will make the competition tougher at the four spot, the departure of Claxton could let Wolf see more minutes at the five, backing up new presumptive starter Day'Ron Sharpe.

In preparation, Wolf — who was shut down late in his rookie campaign with an ankle injury — has spent the early part of the offseason trying to get stronger, to battle veteran centers on the boards.

"Starting with my body getting stronger or getting quicker, getting my ankle right. And just even playing now, I've never felt more in control or on balance or stronger," Wolf said. "And then with that, I'd say my finishing and my 3-point consistency. And I'm shooting the best I've shot it, and I feel like I'm finishing the best I've finished. So, just gotta keep at it. But I know I'm nowhere near where I want to be."

The proof will be in the pudding as far as any shooting improvements. But Wolf weighed in at 260 pounds, up almost 10 pounds from a year ago, and he's banking on strength and experience helping his subpar finishing at the rim.

"You learn something new every day when you work here in the NBA," Wolf said. "Obviously you have Clax, who's [spent] six or seven years in the league, and then Day Day is going into his sixth year, you learn from those guys every day.

"When I was in the G-League, I played center at times. Then there were times in the NBA when I was playing center too when those guys were out, and I felt comfortable in the position. I think the added strength is gonna be the biggest thing I do for five minutes at the five. But I'm gonna do whatever the coaches ask me to and just compete."

As a rookie, Wolf played everywhere along the frontcourt. Coach Jordi Fernández even used him as a point forward and backup playmaker when the need arose.

"For sure. I played one through five this year," said Wolf. "There were games where Jordi, I went in the game being point guard. And there would be games where I went in as a five. And I feel comfortable all across the floor. The biggest thing for me is defense."

©Magnolia Pictures/Courtesy Everett Collection

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

In the pantheon of lovers-on-the-run stories, **"Carolina Caroline"** (VOD) is redundantly redundant. **OUR CALL: SKIP IT**

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

WHAT TO WATCH

Netflix's tennis documentary **"Chris & Martina: The Final Set"** is a loving look at a legendary friendship-turned-rivalry-turned-sisterhood. For decades, **Chris Evert** and **Martina Navratilova** (left) dominated the women's tennis circuit, trading Grand Slam titles while pushing each other to get better.

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

MAMAS KNOW BEST

Yvonne Najor on becoming pregnant at the same time as other 'In the City' co-stars

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

After more than a decade of being Lindsay Hubbard's best friend and hiding from cameras at **"Summer House"** parties, Yvonne Najor is making her reality TV debut on Bravo's new spinoff, **"In The City."**

This season, Najor, who formerly worked as the vice president of marketing at a high-profile nightlife empire, is letting viewers in on newlywed life with her husband Nick Barber, whom she wed in Mexico in 2024 (and legally in the United States last fall). However, it isn't all sunshine and rainbows, as their mismatched timelines on starting a family have tested them in ways they never expected.

In fact, Najor shared in the premiere episode of "In The City" that one of their more heated arguments over the topic prompted her to book a flight to San Diego without telling Barber — and it wasn't until a few days later that he even noticed she was gone. Looking back on the confession, Najor clarified to DECIDER that she flew to San Diego to see her family, not to "just go on a vacation." She shared that she and Barber were working "demanding jobs at the time," and, because of their schedules, they were often "two ships passing in the night," which was likely why he didn't realize she had left. Najor, who is currently pregnant with their first baby, said they are now "stronger than ever," and that she hasn't booked a flight without telling her husband since that incident.

"I did feel like he did get a lot of heat from that comment, but he's such a great guy," she said. "Hopefully, you can see that on the show. We have a lot of respect for each other."

DECIDER: What did the "In The City" group chat look like when you, Danielle [Olivera] and Lexi [Sundin] all realized you were pregnant at the same time?

YVONNE NAJOR: It was interesting because I feel like – I don't know if it was like every other month or every other week someone was announcing their pregnancy. None of us knew the other was pregnant. But now we're just so excited. It's so fun to have a mom group. At the time, we were due within a few weeks of each other. Danielle just had her baby, so she had the first "In the City" baby. But yeah, it was pretty hilarious actually, that three of us got pregnant. Everyone's like, "What were you guys drinking? What was in the water? What was in the tequila?"

Danielle actually had her baby recently. Have you or anyone been in contact with her? How is she doing?

I'm so happy for her and Eoin. I also love their baby name, Aiden. I called them as soon as they had the baby and they seem to be doing great and I'm just so excited for them.

Tamara Beckwith/NY Post

Yvonne Najor (left) stars on Bravo's "In the City" with Lindsay Hubbard (below left).

I want to get into the show a bit. You and Lindsay have been best friends for years. What made you finally decide to jump headfirst into this reality TV world? Was there any part of you that was nervous it could come between your friendship with Lindsay?

I'm so proud to be a New Yorker. I love this city. And I think, like when the opportunity about a New York show [presented itself], I was really excited to be part of that. With our show, I think New York City is a character in the show. Also, just like the idea of being with a real friend group just sounded fun. I thought it just seemed like an exciting opportunity, and I thought it was the perfect time.

"In The City" is obviously coming at a very tumultuous time in the "Summer House" universe. What does your friendship with Amanda [Batula] currently look like?

Amanda was at the reunion. I think one thing you're going to see from the reunion is that she had a lot to say. I think you have to wait till the reunion.

Would you say she was more vocal at the "In the City" reunion than the "Summer House" reunion?

Yeah, I would say Amanda had more to say and Kenny [Martin] had more to answer for.

Courtesy of Prime

TRENDING NOW

Shark week is coming, and so is a shark movie that is sure to make a splash on Prime Video. The streamer dropped the teaser trailer and released some new pictures from **"The Devil's Mouth."** The new film starring **Kathryn Newton** (left), which premieres on July 29.

WHAT'S NEW

ON NETFLIX

"Worst Neighbor Ever," a true-crime docuseries.

ON PRIME VIDEO

"Elle," a **"Legally Blonde"** prequel series (left).

Best Bets

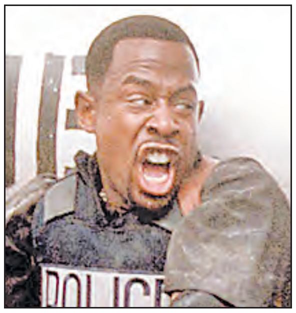
What's on Tonight

ADVENTURE

Men in Black: 6 p.m. on SYFY. Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones. Two Agents must recover an item that has been stolen by an intergalactic villain.

SPORT

2026 FIFA World Cup: 7:45 p.m. on WNYW 5. United States at Bosnia-Herzegovina from San Francisco Bay Area Stadium.



COMEDY

Bad Boys: 11:30 p.m. on FX. Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. Two hip detectives protect a witness to a murder while investigating a case of stolen heroin.

Wednesday July 1, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action): Pete Mitchell must confront the ghosts of his past when he gets an assignment. Tom Cruise. PG-13 ★★★½						CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	Brilliant Minds: The Way Home		Chicago Fire: Frostbite Blue (R)		Chicago P.D.: Born Screaming (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) FIFA World Cup Today Live.		(7:45) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Round of 32: United States at Bosnia-Herzegovina from San Francisco Bay Area Stadium. Live.					FIFA World Cup Live.	The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune: Kathy Hilton (R)		Shifting Gears: Jimmy	(9:31) Shifting Gears	(10:01) Shifting Gears	Shifting Gears: Kiss (R)	News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: The Day Akia Disappeared (R)		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Open Desert (R)	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Community Closeup	Seinfeld	The Big Bang Theory	Police 24/7: It's a Zoo Out There (R)		Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent (R)		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: Comeback
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		NOVA: Athens: Birth of Democracy (R)		NOVA: Revolutionary War Weapons (R)		The Kimberley: Australia's Wild West: Into The Fire		Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Antiques Roadshow (R)		TURN: Washington's		Declarations: Black		Unforgotten: Connecticut		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Energy Swi	Brooklyn	Her B Idea	The NYC F	Feet	Bric tv BM	Eat Harlem	$9.99 R ★★½	Neighbor	New York	Secrets NY
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Hermanas Un Amo		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Mundial	Mundial	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026 Directo.					Todo el Mundial Directo.		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: The Boardwalk		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)	Arrest	Arrest	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Arrest (R)	Arrest (R)
AMC	54	43	231	Pearl Harbor (2001, Action) Ben Affleck.			Armageddon (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★							Die Hard R
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) A Knight's Tale (2001, Adventure) Heath Ledger. PG-13 ★★★					Spaceballs (1987, Comedy) Mel Brooks. PG ★★★				Criminal Minds	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Tyler Perry's The Oval		Gangster: Trap Queens		OG Stories	The Oval
BRAVO	18	44	185	The Valley	The Valley (R)		The Valley		Next Gen NYC		(10:15) The Valley (R)		(11:15) Next Gen NYC (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition Unknown		Mystery: Expelling the		(11:08) Exp. Unknown (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Kiff	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	The House Bunny (2008, Comedy) Anna Faris. ★★½			
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	MLB Baseball Tonight		MLB Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Milwaukee Brewers. Live.						SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Futbol	Athletes Unlimited Softball Live.				Podcast		ESPN FC		30 for 30	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		100 Cooks		100 Cooks: 32 Cooks	
FREE	38	49	199	Maleficent	(7:20) Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (2019, Fantasy) Angelina Jolie. PG ★★★						Million Dollar Nannies		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	(6:00) First	The American Rodeo: Showdown Round Replay.					The American Rodeo: Championship Round Replay.				TMZ Sports
FX	10	40	53	The Winter Soldier (2014) Chris Evans.			Captain America: Civil War (2016, Action) Chris Evans. PG-13 ★★★							Bad Boys R
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Movie			Movie				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Renovation	Renovation Aloha		Renovation Aloha		Renovation Resort Show		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Forged in	Forged in Fire: Military (R)		Forged in Fire (R)		Alone: Building Momentum			(10:34) Forged in Fire		Alone (R)
ID	23	171	123	See No	See No Evil: Come Home		See No Evil		48 Hours on ID		Case Paula Zahn		Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	Rizzoli	Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		Rizzoli & Isles		(10:03) Rizzoli & Isles		(11:03) Rizzoli & Isles	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	Coaches	USL Soccer Live.				MSG Summer	MSG Summer	The Coaches Corner		USL Soccer Replay.	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(5:00) NHL	4th & For	4th & For	The Wager	The Wager	NHL Hockey: New Jersey Devils at St. Louis Blues.				NHL Hockey Replay.	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick.				(8:38) Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson. PG-13 ★★★						Pitch Perf
SNY	26	60	77	Baseball	Amazin'	Amazin'	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Toronto Blue Jays from Rogers Centre. Replay.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(6:00) Men in Black (1997) Will Smith.			Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. ★★				The Ark: Fail Experiment		The Ark: Kill or Killed (R)	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite: Dynamite 7/1/2026				Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	The Office	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Strange Brew (1983, Comedy) PG			(8:15) Blues in the Night (1941, Musical)			Tunes	Going Places (1938) Dick Powell. NR ★			Voyager NR
TLC	52	28	139	Doctors	Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme (R)		Most Extreme (R)		The Face Doctors		The Face Doctors	
TNT	3	37	51	(5:30) Black Adam (2022, Action) ★★★			Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill. PG-13 ★½						Mortal Kombat (2021) ★★½	
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) 9-1-1	9-1-1: Ashes, Ashes		9-1-1: All Fall Down		9-1-1: Buzzkill		9-1-1: Boeing Tough...		9-1-1: Final Approach	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	RV (2006, Adventure) Robin Williams. PG ★★½					Like Mike (2002, Comedy) Bow Wow. ★★		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Life Before Eyes		NCIS: Secrets		NCIS: Psych Out		NCIS: Need to Know		NCIS: The Tell	
YES	53	89	76	My Number	Minor League Baseball Live.					Homegrown	Athletes: Texas Volts vs. Utah Talons Live.			
HBO	511	301	400	(6:20) Legally Blonde (2001, Comedy)			House of the Dragon (R)		(9:06) Of the Dragon (R)		Undertone (2026, Horror) Nina Kiri. R			Exorcist R
MAX	531	371	420	Joker: Folie à Deux (2024, Musical) Joaquin Phoenix.				(8:42) Trance (2013, Thriller) James McAvoy. R ★★★				The Killing of a Sacred Deer (2017) ★★★		
MGM Plus	595		395	Changing R	From: If A Tree Falls		The Departed (2006, Crime) Leonardo DiCaprio. R ★★★★					(10:35) Pulp Fiction (1994, Crime) ★★★★		
PARSHO	551	321	365	Airplane! (1980, Comedy) Robert Hays.			Good Morning, Vietnam (1988) Robin Williams. R ★★★				Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise. PG ★★★			

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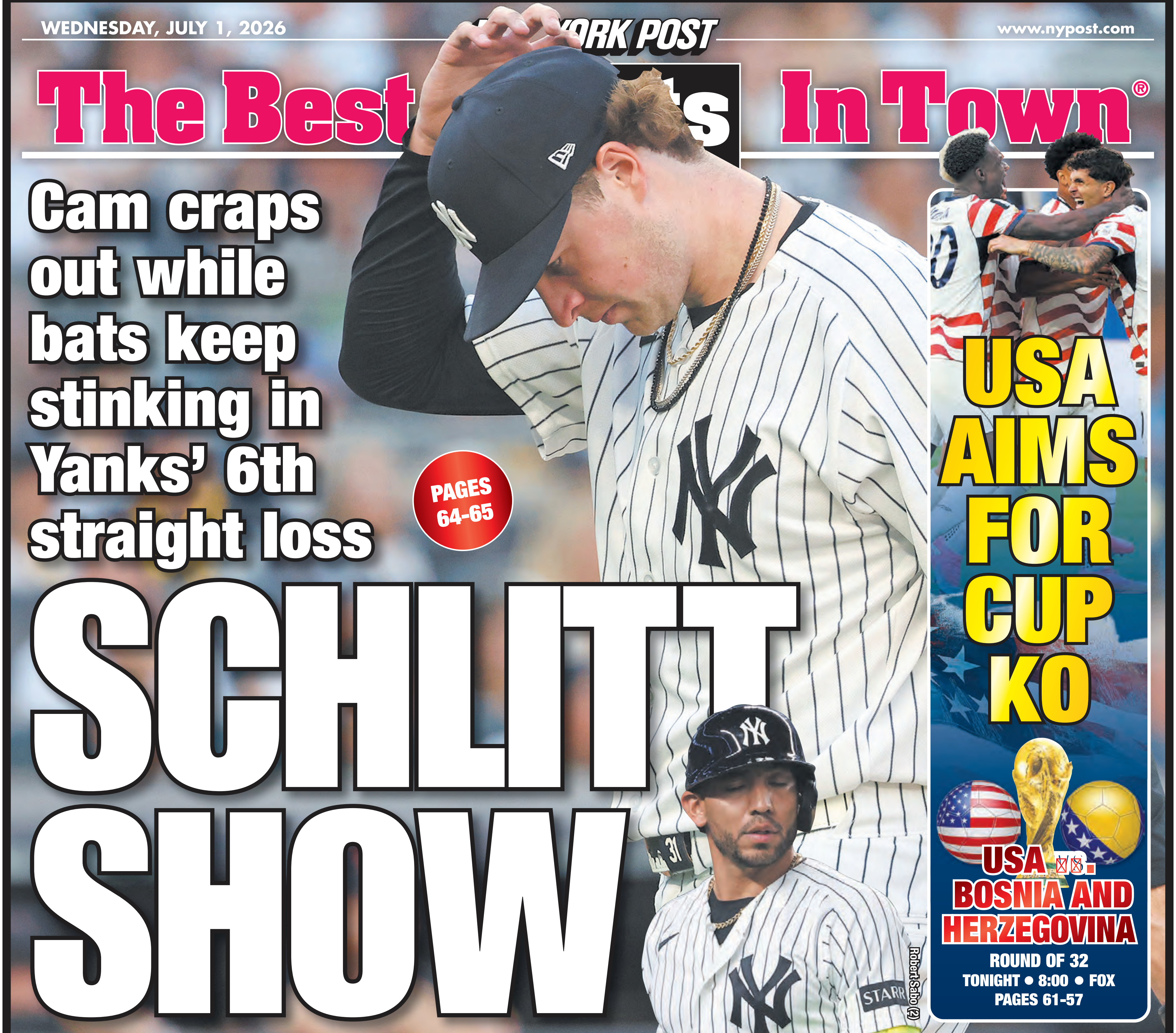

Cam craps out while bats keep stinking in Yanks' 6th straight loss

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SCHLITT SHOW

Robert Sabo (2)

Cam Schlittler reacts after giving up the last of three homers in the first inning, burying the Yanks in a hole their impotent lineup could never recover from, in a 9-3 loss to the Tigers. José Caballero was booed after a bad throw blew a double play, while the rest of the lineup mustered just four hits again.

USA AIMS FOR CUP KO

USA vs. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

ROUND OF 32
TONIGHT • 8:00 • FOX
PAGES 61-57

McLEAN MOWS DOWN JAYS

PAGES 62-63

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